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One killed as car rams bike, falls off flyover

BENGALURU
One person was killed and four persons severely injured in an accident when a speeding car rammed into a bike and plunged to the road below from the Yeshwantpur flyover early on Tuesday. » Page 2

Unions struggle with losses

BENGALURU
Saddled with a huge stock of milk powder, piling up by the day owing to non-lucrative price, district milk unions are struggling to cut down losses with a few resorting to reduction in milk procurement price. » Page 6

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Nine Maoists killed in Dantewada encounter

Arms and ammunition recovered in joint search operation; all the deceased were identified as members of West Bastar and Darbha Division Committee and PLGA Company No. 02, say police

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Nine Maoists, six of them women, were killed by security forces in an anti-Naxal operation in the forests along the boundary of Dantewada and Bijapur districts in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday, according to the police.

With these deaths, the tally of alleged Maoists killed by security forces this year has crossed 150.

Dantewada Superintendent of Police Gaurav Rai said the operation was carried out by a joint team of District Reserve Guards, Bastar Fighters, and the Central Reserve Police Force.

They had received a tip-off about the presence of Maoists belonging to the PLGA Company No. 2 and the West Bastar and Darbha Division, in the hilly forested area under Kirandul police station of Dantewada district.

"During the search, there was continuous firing between the police party and the Maoists, seven to eight times, starting around 10.30 a.m.," Mr. Rai said. Around 1.15 p.m., the police confirmed that nine alleged Maoists had been killed.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition, including one self-loading rifle, one .303 rifle, 12-bore rifle, .315-bore rifle, barrel grenade launchers, Naxalite material, and items of daily use were also recovered, the police said, adding that the search operation was continuing.

Around 6 p.m., another bulletin was issued with no further increase in the casualty figures.

Prima facie, all the deceased have been identified as members of the West Bastar and Darbha Division Committee and PLGA Company No. 02, said Mr. Rai, adding that all members of the security forces were safe.

"In view of the possibility of many other Maoists being killed/injured during the encounter, additional reinforcement teams are searching the area around the encounter site," he said.

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The crackdown

Chhattisgarh, a region greatly affected by left wing extremism, has seen a surge of counter-insurgency operations this year. Some major operations:

April 16: 29 Maoists, including a senior rebel leader, killed in Kanker (North Bastar)

April 10: 12 Maoists killed in Bijapur

April 2: 13 killed in Bijapur

153 Maoists killed in anti-Naxal operations so far this year; this figure is much higher than the 46 deaths in 2021, 30 in 2022, and 29 in 2023

Dantewada is where the encounter took place on Tuesday

Bengal Bill moots capital punishment for rapists

Capital change

Introducing the death penalty for rape, the Bill seeks to amend the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and POCSO Act

BNS Section	Punishment now	Proposed
64(1) - Rape	10 years' RI that may extend to life and fine	RI for life or death
64(2) - Rape by police officer or public servant	10 years' RI that may extend to life and fine	RI for life and fine or death
66 - Rape that causes death or persistent vegetative state	20 years' RI that may extend to life or death	Death
70(1) - Gang rape	20 years' RI that may extend to life and fine	RI for life or death
70(2) - Repeat offenders	Life imprisonment or death	RI for life or death

For POSCO, it only provides life imprisonment or death sentence for penetrative sexual assault

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The West Bengal Assembly on Tuesday unanimously passed the Aparajita Women and Child (West Bengal Criminal Laws Amendment) Bill, 2024 by voice vote, with MLAs from the Trinamool Congress and the BJP supporting it.

The Bill has provisions for increased punishment for rape, gang rape, rape that results in death of the victim or leaves her in a vegetative state, rape by a police officer or public servant or manager of a home, and rape by repeat offenders. Consequentially, it seeks to amend the relevant Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

It also requires that investigation into rape cases be concluded within 21 days of the initial report.

The Bill comes nearly 25 days after the rape and murder of a doctor at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata, which triggered outrage not only in the State but across the country.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee described the Bill, tabled by Law Minister Moloy Ghatak, as a "historic and model" legislation.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

4.15 lakh people hit by floods in A.P.

G.V.R. Subba Rao
Nellore Sravani
VIJAYAWADA/VISAKHAPATNAM

The Indian Navy has rescued 22 persons who were stranded in flood-affected areas in Andhra Pradesh and air-dropped more than 1,000 kg of food to the affected people on Tuesday.

The Eastern Naval Command (ENC) in Visakhapatnam has deployed naval aircraft, flood relief teams and diving teams to augment the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in the State, said an official release.

The Navy has deployed four helicopters – two advanced light helicopters and two Chetak helicopters – and one Dornier aircraft for search and rescue operations. Additional naval assets and rescue teams with associated equipment have been kept on standby to provide the necessary assistance, the release added. As many as 4,15,171 people were affected by rain and flood in Andhra Pradesh.

The government has shifted 43,417 people to 163 relief camps across the State. It has set up 197 medical camps. At least 17 people have died due to rain-related incidents in the State so far, while two persons were missing as of Tuesday.

Nine deaths were reported in NTR district and seven in Guntur district. A death was reported in Palnadu district when persons riding a two-wheeler were washed away in a stream.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Dengue notified as epidemic in State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With an unprecedented 25,589 dengue cases reported in the State this year, Karnataka has notified dengue fever, including severe forms of this vector-borne disease, as an epidemic.

The State has amended regulations under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 2020. The Karnataka Epidemic Diseases (Amendment Regulations), 2024, was published in the official gazette last week.

What rules say

Under the amended rules, it is mandatory for every owner, occupier, builder or other person in charge of any land or building, or any place, including water tanks, parks, and playgrounds, to take necessary measures to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes. This includes ensuring water-storage containers, sumps, and overhead tanks are securely covered.

A competent authority – Chief Commissioner of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for areas coming under its jurisdiction – and Deputy Commissioner for districts other than those coming under the jurisdiction of the BBMP – will be put in place. This authority has been empowered to implement remedial measures and inspect and levy penalties on violators.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 5

47 killed, over 200 injured in Russian strike on Ukraine military institute

Reuters
KYIV

At least 47 people were killed and 206 wounded when Russia struck a military institute in the central town of Poltava with two missiles on Tuesday, Ukraine's first lady said, the war's deadliest single attack this year.

Photographs posted on social media showed several bodies lying around covered in dust and debris, with the badly damaged side of a large building behind them. It was not immediately clear who the victims were. Ukrainian military bloggers suggested some might be cadets or recently mobilised men undergoing training.

Rescuers inspect a destroyed hotel after the Russian missile strike in Zaporizhzhia in Ukraine on Tuesday. AFP

"The Russians will definitely be held accountable for this strike," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on the Telegram app.

He ordered a full and prompt investigation, saying the strike with two ballistic missiles damaged a building of the Military Institute of Communications.

The use of ballistic missiles, which hit targets hundreds of kilometres away within a few minutes of their launch, meant the victims had almost no time to find cover after the air raid siren sounded, the Foreign Ministry said.

"This is a stunning tragedy for all of Ukraine. The enemy hit an educational institution and a hospital," Ukraine's first lady, Olena Zelenska, wrote on X.

Russia has intensified its missile and drone attacks on Ukraine two-and-a-half years into the full-scale war. Last week, Ukraine was pummelled with the heaviest bombardment to date. Ukraine also targeted Russia with more than 158 drones at the weekend, damaging an oil refinery near Moscow and a power station.

Knocking your Szocs off — Romanian paddler's journey to the top via India

Ahmedabad SG Pipers' Bernadette is in India after an underwhelming 2024 Paris Olympics campaign with the hope to not only improve her own game, but to make a case for European table tennis in an Asia-dominated sport

M. VEDHAN

K. Keerthivasan
Santadeep Dey

One of Bernadette Szocs's Instagram posts last year reads, "Beauty is skin-deep but the attitude is to the bone!"

The Romanian paddler is quite the case study for the same. One of her nation's top table tennis players and one of the very few Europeans in the world top 15, she has, for a while, been poking holes in the Asian dominance of the sport led by China and Japan.

But Szocs doesn't believe in all work and no play. Ranked 13th in the world, she makes heads turn not just with her skill on the table but with her impeccable fashion sense too, ensuring that world events like Olympics, European Games and World Championships have a suave touch to them. At the Paris Games a few weeks ago, Szocs sported nails which had the Olympic rings, a table tennis racquet and the Romanian flag drawn onto them. In the ongoing fifth chapter of the Ultimate Table Tennis League, Szocs even adopted a few local style choices, sporting a bindi - an ornamental dot on the forehead - during matches.

"Wearing a *bindhi* was my idea," she said. "It is something special for India. I like trying out new things and being creative. I told my manager to get one and put it on right away."

"I love to have designs of flags on my nails during big events like the Olympics, European Games and the European Championships. I am proud of representing my country. I love to be stylish and different from others."

Her personality isn't the only thing that sets her apart from the field. Her game too has the required ingredients that make her a formidable paddler.

An attacking player who likes operating close to the table, Szocs has quite a few scalps of the world's top 10 in her storied career. The one she cherishes the most is her victory over reigning Olympic singles champion Chen Meng of China, whom she beat in the WTT Champions Frankfurt 2023 in the round of 16 last year. In what was a close encounter, Szocs had two match points at 10-8 on her serves in the fifth and final game, but lost both. However, she quickly turned it around, winning the game 12-10. The roaring celebration was all one needed to see to understand just how big this win was for her.

This was her second consecutive triumph over Meng, having beaten her in the WTT Champions' Macao edition in 2022.

"That was the best match of my career. It was a dream-come-true moment.I beat the two-time Olympic women's singles champion (Tokyo and Paris). When I beat her for the second time, I proved that it wasn't just luck that helped me beat her. It gave me a lot of confidence," Szocs, the reigning women's singles winner at the European Games, said.

Her 'happy triumphs' list doesn't end there. Next comes Meng's compatriot Chen Xingtong (then World No. 4 and now World No. 6) at the WTT Champions Macau 2023 tournament.

Top of the list

Wins over top Chinese players don't come every day and this win is right up there for the Romanian.

Szocs came to India for the 2024 edition of Ultimate Table Tennis - she represents Ahmedabad SG Pipers - came after an underwhelming third Olympic campaign in Paris, a turn of events that had an Indian hand.

"It was my worst Olympics. In the team events in Paris, we expected a fourth or fifth place, but lost to India in the round of 16. It was a sad moment for me. We were the favourites in the pre-quarterfinals against India, but we lost. It is not the first time that we had problems with India. Indian paddlers use special rubbers that are so different from the world.

"The short pimpled rubbers and those with long pimples are so different. Indians can cut, chop the ball and attack, they are known for this. You cannot see it in any part of the world."

Building a reputation

While the global competitive field is quite heavily tilted in favour of dominant countries like China and Japan, Szocs has built a reputation for herself in Europe.

She won the women's team gold at the European Championships in 2017 and 2019. She added a women's doubles gold at the same event to her kitty in 2022 before sweeping the women's singles and team gold at the European Games last year.

"It (being at the top) is a lot of pressure, I can say it is easier to break into the top 10 or top 15 but it's very hard to retain it. You need to demonstrate constantly that you belong to the top league. Without good results, you cannot maintain the rankings," she explained.

While there are no Asian hurdles here, winning in Europe is no cakewalk either.

"Europeans are very strong. You can see it in their results. There is a big fight and competition between us. We've always done well on pro tours," Szocs pointed out.

A number of European players have been making waves on the international stage this year. Nina Mittelham of Netherlands, ranked 18th in the world has reached the women's singles final of the WTT Star Contender in Goa while Prithika Pavade of France, world ranked 19, entered the final of the WTT Star Contender in Slovenia.

She credits her coach Seni Ionut Stefan for sticking with her and finetuning her technique,

"He is the best coach I could have had in my entire life. I have had many coaches before but he was the one who helped me the most. He changed my game, my mental make-up and fitness. He knows what I need. I practise for nearly eight hours every day. He watches me and tells me where I go wrong," she said.

With the Paris Games put to bed, her own think tank will turn focus to Los Angeles, but the Olympics in America is not front and centre on her mind just yet. First priority is her title defence in the European Championships in October this year in Linz, Austria, and then the 2025 World Championships in Doha.

Every experience along the way, including her UTT sojourn in India, is directed towards these events and towards making her way back into the top 10.

"Every country is different. Everywhere, I learn something good about the people. It is very nice to play in different leagues as I learn new things. India, in general, and Chennai is welcoming. Also, unlike leagues in other countries UTT is a mixed league. It is a different experience and it's nice," she said, drawing parallels between franchise table tennis here and in other parts of the world.

"I was in the top 10 earlier. My goal is to make it to the world's top 5. It is not easy, I know. But I am a very positive person. I will give my best and will work hard. I am a fighter," she signed off.

Dance of delight... Szocs and teammate Manush Shah. PTI

THE GIST

- Bernadette Szocs began playing table tennis because of her brother Hunor. Watching him win a medal inspired her to take up the sport
- This is not the Romanian's first run in the Indian league. She represented the now defunct Dabang Delhi TTC two seasons ago. She finished as runner-up twice in the two seasons she has played in
- Szocs loves travelling to different countries to play table tennis. Besides UTT, she has featured in tournaments in her home country, Spain and Germany
- She is ranked 13th in the world and hopes to break into the top 5 in the months to follow

One killed, four hurt as car rams into bike, falls off flyover

Car driver loses control at the sharp turn on Yeshwantpur flyover; vehicle hits the median and a bike coming from the opposite side, jumps over the crash barrier and falls on the road below

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

One person was killed and four persons severely injured in an accident when a speeding car rammed into a bike and plunged to the road below from the Yeshwantpur flyover early on Tuesday.

Luckily, since it was early morning hours, there was no traffic below the flyover.

The deceased has been identified as Shabarish Shivadas, 29, a techie hailing from Salem, Tamil Nadu, and the son of a prominent industrialist. Four others, including three relatives of Shabarish who were in the car and a bike rider, have been severely injured and are being treated in an Intensive Care Unit at two private hospitals in the city. The condition of three of the four injured is said to be critical.

The mangled remains of the car that was involved in the accident in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The accident occurred at around 3.50 a.m. when the car with Shabarish and his three relatives, coming from Malleswaram's side, climbed the Yeshwantpur flyover heading towards Tumakuru Road. The driver is suspected to have been speeding and lost control at the sharp turn on the flyover. The car hit the median, and the bike, coming in the opposite lane, jumped over the crash barrier and fell on the road below. The crash barrier was undamaged.

The car had Shabarish and three of his relatives – Mithun Chakravarthy, who was driving the car, Shankar Ram and Anushri. The four had come to the city to collect Shabarish's visa, shopped at Orion Mall and were on a joyride. As the car rammed the median and hit the bike, the sole woman, Anushri, was thrown out of the car. She suffered injuries to her head and face and is said to be "out of danger". The car came crashing down with three others.

The Yeshwantpur Traffic Police, who reached the spot, said the car was so mangled that it was an ordeal to pull out those in the car. Shabarish was killed on the spot. The car driver, Mithun Chakravarthy, and Shankar Ram were severely injured. Police sources said that the chances of survival of Mithun Chakravarthy were slim. Meanwhile, Manjunath, 38, the bike rider who was hit by the speeding car has suffered a spinal cord injury and is in critical condition.

Police have also found liquor bottles from the car and now suspect the driver may have been drunk.

Despite study flagging design flaw of flyover, no measures taken

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In 2019, the Transport Engineering Lab of the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) recommended a slew of corrective measures to prevent accidents on the Yeshwantpur flyover. However, barring putting rumblers on the flyover to reduce the speed of vehicles, no other corrective measures have been implemented till date.

IISc had concluded that there was flyover design was flawed. "This is owing to the poor design of the horizontal curvature. The horizontal curve is very sharp (almost 90 degrees turn), which makes heavy vehicles vulnerable to accidents. With increase in speed of the vehicles on the flyover, the centrifugal force acting on the vehicles increases by many folds, throwing the vehicle off the flyover," the study had then said.

Ashish Verma, Department of Civil Engineering, IISc, who led the study in 2019, said they had recommended for crash barriers to be increased to at least 2 m, among a host of other recommendations. However, Mr. Verma said apart from installing rumblers at either ends of the flyover, no other corrective measures were taken.

Crash barrier

In the accident that occurred early on Tuesday, the car that was overspeeding lost control exactly at the steep curve, hit the road median and a bike coming on the opposite lane, flew over the existing crash barrier, which is less than 1 m, and fell to the ground. Had the crash barrier been higher, the car may have not fallen to the road below.

M.N. Anucheth, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), Bengaluru, said a total of eight accidents have been reported at the particular spot on the flyover - six non-fatal and two fatal accidents since 2020. "We will get a study done of the spot and take suitable corrective measures," he said.

Civic body clears blackspots after surprise inspection

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BBMP officials cleared many garbage black spots in parts of South Bengaluru after a surprise inspection by Upalokayuktas Justice K.N. Phanindra and Justice B. Veerappa of the blackspots on Monday.

The Upalokayuktas first noticed the pile of garbage near Nadaprabhu Sri Kempegowda Indoor stadium in V.V. Puram and then took note of the vehicles that were parked in front of a 'no parking' sign and the garbage that had piled up near the B.R. Ambedkar Government R.C. College's boys hostel in Banashankari and over 15 unclaimed vehicles on B.R. Ambedkar Nagar main road. They also noticed dry and wet waste, animal waste and other wastes on Dr. Vishnuvardhan Road and nonfunctional garbage trucks filled with garbage near the Kadirenahalli underpass.

After their inspection, the Upalokayuktas instructed the officials of BBMP and waste disposal contractors to clear the garbage from all the spots before 10 a.m. on September 3, and strict action would be taken against them if they failed to do so.

Accordingly all blackspots were cleared and unclaimed vehicles were removed by the BBMP in these areas within one day.

Free angioplasty workshop

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Researchwill organise a free angioplasty workshop for 150 patients from September 24 at its Bengaluru and Mysuru hospitals.

The workshop has been planned for poor patients and financially constrained senior citizens.

Fake news: This is a political phenomenon, and it should be fought politically, says Sreenivasan Jain

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"There is no end to fake news. But we are talking about the kind of fake news that is causing social unrest and has changed the nature of society and democracy. That new threat is coming directly from political power, and it is serving the interests of power. In India and around the world that is called as 'the big lie'. It is called that because the falsehood itself is huge," said senior journalist Sreenivasan Jain on Tuesday.

He was speaking at 'A seminar on misinformation - How it affects social justice', organised by the Karnataka Media Academy supported by the Department of Information and Publicity and Gandhi Smaraka Nidhi and held at Gandhi Bhavan.

Sreenivasan Jain THE HINDU

He stressed upon the importance of topmost leaders not getting involved in spreading big lies. "Every day there is a new jihad which is coined by the ruling regime. This comes from MPs, Ministers, CMs, and Governors. There is no theory that is too extreme or absurd that is not being propagated at the highest level. The Prime Minister spearheaded one of the most divisive communal campaigns seen in recent history in these polls," Mr. Jain said.

He said this cycle of fake news and falsehoods could be ended only when there are consequences for those who propagate it. "This is a political phenomenon, and it should be fought politically. Yes, the opposition is trying to say slogans, but that is not enough. Every day, the minorities are facing the brunt of prejudice. This requires the opposition to step up. They need to fight this the same way they would fight any other issue like price rise of farmers' issue," he elaborated.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, who inaugurated the seminar, said, "The danger is that wrong information is creating differences between us and dividing us. The government should authoritatively tell people that a piece information is wrong and it should not be believed."

Microsoft may sign MoU with State for skilling in Gen AI, says Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tech major Microsoft has plans to sign a memorandum of understanding with the Karnataka government to enhance skills in Generative AI and other emerging technologies, said Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Tuesday.

The announcement followed a meeting between the Minister and a Microsoft delegation led by Mr. Puneet Chandok, President of Microsoft India & South Asia. To establish Karnataka as one of India's most AI-driven States, Microsoft intends to bring in solution experts to explore how AI can be integrated into investor support processes within the Department of Commerce & Industries, the Minister said.

According to the Minister, discussions also included Microsoft's participation in the upcoming Global Investor Meet, with a focus on collaboration with Invest Karnataka to showcase Microsoft's innovations during the event, scheduled between February 12 and 14, 2025.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition. (epaper.thehindu.com)

In the issue dated August 4, we have a story on how elevated corridors across Bengaluru will boost congestion, instead of killing it. The real congestion-killers – BMTC buses, fast-tracked suburban rail and Namma Metro, a robust BMLTA to plan and coordinate – are all in slow motion. Meanwhile, the government announced its decision to build 17 elevated corridors on key arterial roads with a total length of 100 km.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (September 4, Wednesday), the following articles are available:

- Did corporate tax cuts increase wages? **bit.ly/taxcutexp**
- Could quakes explain why gold nuggets are found in quartz veins? **bit.ly/earthquakesandgold**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

Clay Ganesha costs more this year as heavy rains affect production

Mahima Nagaraju
BENGALURU

Buying clay Ganesha idols has become a costly affair in Bengaluru ahead of Ganesha Chaturthi festival. Heavy rains have disrupted the supply of clay, and as a result the prices are steep.

"Prices of Ganesha idols range from ₹600 to ₹800 for idols shorter than 1 foot, while last year's prices ranged from ₹400 to ₹500. Prices of idols over a feet tall are going upto ₹1,000 marking a ₹200 increase from last year," said Naveen, a Ganesha idol seller in Mavalli.

Artisans, who make and sell idols, said rains disrupted idol production this time. "It rained heavily in areas like Aanegudde, where we get clay from. So the clay supply hasn't come in. We start making and painting the idols just a month before the festival so that they look fresh but because it has been been raining continuously, they haven't dried properly, which will lead to cracks," said Jagadish, a third generation idol maker who sets up shop in Gandhi Bazaar every year. He added: "Usually, I keep ₹10 lakh worth of Ganeshas and make over ₹2 lakh profit, but this time, I have only been able to make ₹2 lakh worth of idols."

A Ganesha idol on sale at R.V. Road in Bengaluru. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Despite the price hike, Bengalureans prefer to buy clay ganeshas, not because of BBMP's ban on Plaster of Paris (PoP) idols, but that these idols have been in vogue for many years now. "I have been buying clay Ganeshas for the past 3-4 years and the price is too high this time. The smaller one costs thousands. But we end up buying what we set our hearts on," a shopper said.

Despite the ban on PoP idols, godown owners said huge PoP Ganeshas from Hyderabad and Mumbai have entered the city in large numbers. "People who host celebrations on a bigger scale come looking for PoP Ganeshas because they can be made bigger and have better designs," said Vignesh, a godown owner.

Festival rush: KSRTC to operate 1,500 more buses

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In view of Swarna gowri and Ganesha festival on September 6 and 7, respectively, KSRTC will operate 1,500 more buses from Bengaluru to various places from September 5 to 7. Later, special buses will be operated from places within Karnataka and other States to Bengaluru on September 8.

Buses will be operated from Kempegowda bus station to Dharmasthala, Kukke Subramanya, Shivamogga, Hassan, Mangaluru, Kundapura, Sringeri, Horanadu, Davangere, Hubbali, Dharwad, Belagavi, Vijayapura, Gokarna, Sirsi, Karwar, Raichur, Kalaburagi, Ballari, Koppala, Yadgir, Bidar, Tirupati, Vijayawada, and Hyderabad.

Anna Bhagya Ganesha among unique idols this season

Mahima Nagaraju
BENGALURU

This Ganesha festival season, artisans have come up with idols that incorporate some unique themes, ranging from Karnataka government's welfare schemes.

Idol-maker 70-year-old Srinivas has created 'Anna Bhagya Ganesha' this year. Put on display on August 15 at Mavalli, the four-foot-tall installation shows Ganesha blessing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

"We try to make something unique every year. We made one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi before, and one on a Pakistani child who was saved by open heart surgery in India also. This year, we thought Anna Bhagya is a good initiative by the government and hence, decided to make a model of it. We sourced clay from the Ganga riverbed and invited 10 artisans from Kolkata, who worked tirelessly for a week on it," he said.

Among other attractions is an eight-foot-tall, bright purple idol of 'Shiva-Ganesha' on display in a godown in Mavalli. Naveen, the idol-maker, said he was inspired by the 20-foot-tall Shiva-Ganesha idol displayed in Mumbai last year. "This is made of clay and costs ₹60,000. Five artisans came from Mumbai and worked on it for 10 days," he said.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

HAL Selects SAFHAL Helicopter Engines to Develop and Produce 'Aravalli' Engines for Powering India's IMRH and DBMRH Platforms

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and SAFHAL Helicopter Engines Pvt. Ltd. (SAFHAL) have signed an airframer contract, to commence joint design, development, manufacture, supply and support of a new generation high power engine named 'Aravalli' for the 13-ton Medium Lift class, Indian Multi-Role Helicopter (IMRH) and the Deck-Based Multi-Role Helicopter (DBMRH), being designed & developed by HAL. The name 'Aravalli' derived from the mighty mountain range of India, symbolises the aspirations of the country in achieving Aatmanirbharta in critical engine technologies. The contract was signed by Mr. S Anbuvelan, CEO (Helicopter Complex), HAL and Mr. Olivier SAVIN, Director, SAFHAL Helicopter Engines and EVP, Sales & Marketing, Safran Helicopter Engines and Mr. S K Mehta, Director, SAFHAL Helicopter Engines and Executive Director (Finance), HAL. Mr. C B Ananthakrishnan, Chairman and Managing Director (Addl. Charge), HAL stated, "This partnership with SAFHAL marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards achieving technological self-reliance in India's aerospace & defence sector. Mr. Cedric GOUBET, CEO of Safran Helicopter Engines said, "We are extremely proud to collaborate with HAL on this strategic project, capitalizing on 25 years of successful partnership between Safran and HAL. Safran Helicopter Engines has been HAL's partner of choice for powering its helicopters, starting with the Artouste engines used in Cheetah and Chetak, followed by Shakti engine and its variants powering the ALH, LCH and LUH. The present collaboration elevates this time-tested relationship to the next level through the joint design and development of modern state-of-the-art helicopter engines intended for application in Medium Lift Helicopters.

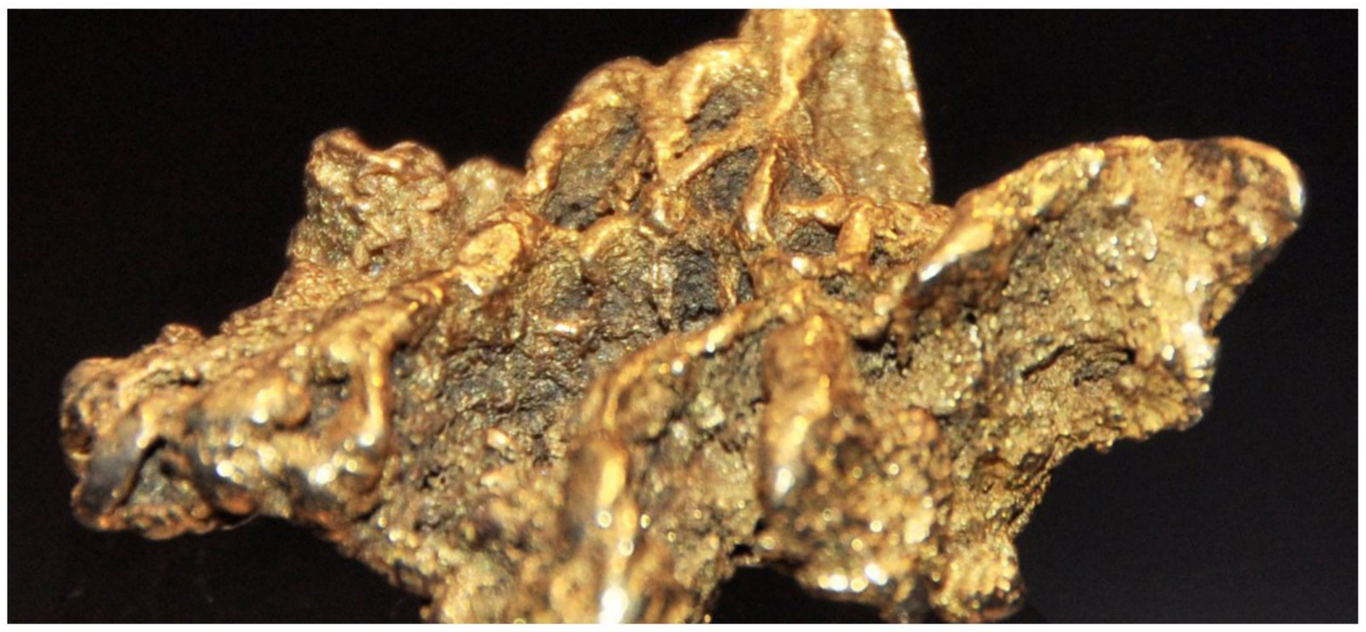
Asia's Largest Agarbathi Export House soon in Karnataka

For the first time-ever in the country, a museum of agarbathis is coming up in Bengaluru, Karnataka initiated by Ullas Agarbathi. The museum will showcase the tradition, the journey of agarbathis, innovations and how they have captured the imagination of the world. Ullas Agarbathi itself exports to over 40 countries and plans to expand the same, driven by specific fragrances required by specific countries. To cater to the growing market - both domestic and international -, Ullas Agarbathi is setting up a Rs. 100 crore state-of-the-art facility in Tumkur. Ullas is already producing 600 million incense sticks a month and the new manufacturing unit will exponentially scale up the capacity. Post the launch of their signature 'Nirantara' divine puja oil in Karnataka a few years ago, celebrated sculptor Arun Yogiraj will be launching 'Nirantara' oil for South India, a premium puja oil on August 26, thus marking a significant extension to Ullas Agarbathi's distinguished 'Nirantara' product line. Arun Yogiraj, sculptor of Sri. Ram Lalla idol in Ayodhya, said "The craftsmanship and cultural significance that Ullas Agarbathi embodies are truly inspiring. The launch of Nirantara Oil and the new Tumkur facility are not just milestones for the brand but for the entire industry." For the South India launch, Nirantara's Brand Ambassador is renowned actress Smt. Suhasini Maniratnam. Her association with the brand is expected to enhance the product's appeal, particularly among the South Indian audience, given her strong cultural connection and popularity. Mr. Ullas Kamath, Founder of UK&Co and advisor on the board of Ullas said that the facility would add to India's competitive edge. Mr. Somashekar Patil, Managing Director of Patil Parimala Works, stated that the launch of Nirantara Oil for South India- Gold Divine Puja Oil is a proud moment for us. Founded in 1978, Ullas Agarbathi has become a well-respected name in the incense stick industry, known for its commitment to quality and tradition. Nirantara Oil represents the perfect fusion of tradition and innovation. The product's packaging is equally noteworthy, featuring a uniquely designed bottle with a ground-breaking shape and a specially engineered cap, making it both aesthetically pleasing and highly functional for daily use.

Could quakes explain why gold nuggets are found in quartz veins?

Researchers have been wondering why most gold nuggets mined in human history were found in orogenic quartz veins. A new study says the quartz itself maybe the key, especially the fact that it is the most common piezoelectric mineral on the planet, with some help from seismic waves

Vasudevan Mukunth



A nugget of gold on public display at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, in Pittsburgh, U.S., on November 17, 2012. JAMES ST. JOHN

THE GIST

Quartz is a piezoelectric crystal; when it is squeezed or its shape is mechanically distorted in some way, it develops a voltage

An electric field distorts the electronic properties of quartz, causing electrons to flow from the crystal to an aqueous solution on its surface or vice versa

A seismic wave leads to piezocatalytic reactions with gold-bearing solutions, and gold is deposited on the crystals. This process, repeated thousands of times, creates large gold nuggets

Sometimes a scientific study comes along that reminds us not all the natural mysteries of this world demand highly specialised knowledge or million-dollar experiments to solve. Instead, they reveal something new by using ideas we were familiar with by high school. Doing this science in this day and age is still limited by access to specific instruments and locations and of course time. Not everyone can do it – but that shouldn't stop us from being wowed by it.

One such study was published in *Nature Geoscience* on September 2, offering to explain why gold nuggets accumulate in quartz veins found in mountainous areas – a mystery for which scientists currently lack a single, convincing explanation.

It opens thus: "Ore deposits represent natural enrichments of elements compared with their normal distribution in Earth's crust. Gold deposits stand out by having the highest degree of enrichment, by factors of 1,000 to 10,000 required to make economic deposits ... compared with base metals, such as copper, that require ~200x enrichment. Gold nuggets represent the most extreme examples of this gold enrichment. Most nuggets originate from the quartz veins formed in orogenic gold systems found around the world. These systems have had exceptional economic importance throughout human history, representing up to 75% of all gold ever mined."

('Orogenic' means a large-scale geological process that creates mountains, such as the interaction of the Indian tectonic plate with the Eurasian plate to create the Himalaya.)

Nuggets in quartz veins

For the study, the researchers – all from research institutes in Australia – were curious why most gold nuggets mined in human history were found in orogenic quartz veins.

Scientists know gold isn't very soluble in fluids. If gold deposits form when the metal condenses out of water in certain locations, we'd need 10 million litres of water just to have 10 kg of gold. So this theory doesn't present the full picture. Another idea scientists have had is that water could contain more dissolved gold if the gold is present as nanoparticles, but yet others have said there's no way to explain why a very large quantity of nanoparticles would get out of water at the specific places where miners have found nuggets.

Even others have wondered whether the orogenic nugget veins could be formed the same way epithermal vein deposits – which occur up to 1.5 km underground – are formed: when hot, mineral-rich fluids cool, depositing gold, silver, copper, and/or some other metals on the rocks around them. There's a problem here, too, per the paper: "This mechanism leaves a clear textural and geochemical signature that cannot be applied to most orogenic deposits."

Where are the large nuggets coming from, then?

It seems the quartz itself might be the answer. Quartz is a piezoelectric crystal: when it is squeezed or its shape is mechanically distorted in some way, it develops a voltage. The electric field created distorts the electronic properties of the crystal such that charged particles – like electrons – flow from the crystal to an aqueous solution on its surface or vice versa. And if the quartz crystal is continuously distorted back and forth, these charged particles can also keep flowing back and forth.

"This exchange is referred to as piezocatalysis and can drive electrochemical reactions at the material-solution interface," the paper read.

Squeezing the reaction out

The researchers cut and prepared six slabs of quartz, placed them inside fluids containing small amounts of dissolved gold, and switched on a linear actuator that strained the slabs at a frequency of 20 Hz. (Small earthquakes produce seismic waves in the 5-60 Hz range.) They also prepared six other slabs the same way but didn't strain them; they formed a control group against which the team could compare the effects of the strain. The team's goal: to check if piezocatalytic chemical reactions could cause gold to be deposited from the solution to the slabs' surface.

> Most nuggets originate from quartz veins formed in orogenic gold systems around the world. These systems have had exceptional economic importance throughout human history, representing up to 75% of all gold ever mined

The solution consisted of chloroauric acid dissolved in a water-salt solvent, where the gold is present as the $AuCl_4^-$ anion. According to the researchers, while the "dominant" gold-bearing compounds in orogenic quartz-vein fluids are $Au(HS)_2^-$ and $Au(HS)^0$, a reaction that causes $AuCl_4^-$ to gain electrons will also cause the hydrosulphide ions to gain electrons because $AuCl_4^-$ is the keenest of all three gold-bearing compounds to lose electrons.

Et voila! An hour after they turned on the actuator, they spotted several small gold deposits on the quartz slabs and none on the control slabs. The chemical reaction they expected was:

$AuCl_4^- + 3e \rightarrow Au + 4Cl^-$

The corresponding reactions with the hydrosulphide compounds would've been:

$Au(HS)^0 + H^+ + e \rightarrow Au + H_2S$

$Au(HS)_2 + H^+ + e \rightarrow Au + H_2S + HS$

Thus they had an answer to the question about the origins of orogenic quartz-vein gold nuggets: a seismic wave released during an earthquake and/or its aftershock squeezes natural quartz crystals, leads to piezocatalytic reactions with gold-bearing solutions nearby, and some gold is deposited on the crystals' surfaces. As this happens thousands and thousands of times, more and more gold finds itself in the quartz veins until, one day, there are large gold nuggets.

Gold leads to more gold

According to the researchers, their idea is held in good stead by two other details. One: Gold is also a very good conductor of electricity, which means if some gold is deposited in some place for the first time, piezocatalysis will cause even more gold to be deposited there in future, which the researchers have written could explain why nuggets are so highly localised. And two, according to the paper:

"Additionally, this provides interpretation for highly interconnected networks of gold along fractures within quartz veins; the fractures are repeatedly reactivated as fluid pathways, and since piezoelectric voltages are coupled with stress, the maximum achievable voltages occur during brittle failure. Since piezoelectric voltages are instantaneous and leave behind no visible tracer, this can rationalise why gold nuggets commonly appear to be 'floating' in quartz veins with no obvious chemical or physical trap."

Take quartz, dip in aqueous solutions of gold, and hit them with earthquakes for millennia. Making big gold deposits is almost like microwaving cup noodles. Kind of. Importantly, understanding how only demanded knowledge of high-school physics and chemistry.

BIG SHOT

Gustavo Baila, an oceanographer at the Federal University of Rio Grande, holds a green sea turtle in Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro on August 29. These turtles are regaining their health after struggling for years with a disease that hampered their movement and sight and ultimately led to their deaths. Scientists said the revival comes after authorities cleaned up the water. REUTERS

QUESTION CORNER

Flu spikes when schools reopen

Q Why do people catch colds and flu more often in the winter? Are viruses transmitted more easily in damp air? Is the resistance of the population reduced by the cold and lack of sunlight, or do the viruses simply take advantage of the greater time we spend indoors with each other?

It is believed that one of the biggest factors for the great increase in seasonal cold is the return of students to schools and colleges. FILE PHOTO

A: There is no one reason why we get more colds and flu in winter. The rhinovirus, which is responsible for up to 40% of colds, cultures better at a temperature of 32 degrees C rather than the normal body temperature of 37 degrees C. However, 32 degrees C is the normal temperature of the lining of the nose, which is good news for the virus.

We do tend to be indoors more often in poorly ventilated areas during the winter and this aids the airborne transmission of the virus. Similarly, ultraviolet rays will kill viruses and this may be another factor as there is obviously much less sunlight in winter.

However, it is believed that one of the biggest factors for the great increase in colds that occurs in early autumn and just after Christmas is the return of students to schools and colleges.

Children and teenagers are far more susceptible to infection as their immune system learns how to combat more infections as they get older and have been exposed to more of the 200 or so viruses responsible for the common cold.

Densely packed nurseries, schools, and colleges provide an ideal breeding ground for viruses that then spread out into the community, aided by the cold damp weather.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

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First day of reading campaign in schools sees lukewarm response

Commissioner of Public Instruction issues order only a day before the programme; read-a-thon not held in most schools in State owing to lack of preparation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To develop reading skills among schoolchildren studying in classes 1 to 7, the Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) kickstarted a campaign in all government and aided schools for 21 days in two phases from Tuesday.

However, there were teething problems on day one, with the Commissioner of Public Instruction issuing an order only the day before, on September 2, to start the campaign. Due to lack of preparation, the reading campaign was not held in most schools in the State on Tuesday.

"The Commissioner issued an order on Monday and officials of the department brought it to our attention in the evening and suggested we conduct read-a-thon on Tuesday. How could it be done without preparation?" asked a teacher, who did not wish to be named.

The programme involves students, teachers, and officials taking part in the read-a-thon between 11 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. by reading their favourite books. FILE PHOTO

According the order of DSEL, the first phase of read-a-thon was to start on Tuesday and go on till September 18. The programme involves students, teachers, and officials taking part in the read-a-thon between 11 a.m. and 11.30 a.m. by reading their favourite books. The second phase of the campaign would be held from September 26 to 30. The department has made it clear that the reading campaign should not disturb the regular teaching hours.

Age-appropriate books

During this campaign, the students will be provided with age-appropriate storybooks.

In case there is no reading material available, the teachers can refer to material supplied by the department, which are in PDF format.

The teachers have also been asked to take photographs of the activities at their respective schools and post it on the WhatsApp groups at the local level.

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Murder case: Chargesheet against Darshan to be submitted soon

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The investigation into the Renukaswamy murder case is almost complete; the chargesheet against 17 accused, including actor Darshan, is ready and will be submitted to the court concerned soon, City police commissioner B. Dayananda said on Tuesday.

Mr. Dayananda said that the police had sent the chargesheet to the Prosecution Department for scrutiny, which made certain observations and suggested minor changes.

The commissioner said that forensic reports from FSL, Madiwala and CFSL, Hyderabad have been clinching evidence and have been included in the chargesheet. However, he said some reports are yet to come, and some issues need further probe, which will be included in a supplementary chargesheet.

The chargesheet includes over 40 witness statements made before the magistrate and the recovery of the evidence and statements of the accused with supporting documents. Senior police officials part of the investigation met Home Minister Dr. G. Parameshwara to update him about the chargesheet, recently. Sources in the Department said that the police are considering making Darshan the prime accused based on the evidence. However, Dr. Parameshwara, speaking to media persons, said that it was the discretion of the investigation officer.

Man arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Parappana Agarahara police on Tuesday arrested a 20-year-old man and recovered 60 stolen mobile phones worth ₹10 lakh from him. The accused N. Raviteja, from East Godavari, travelled in crowded buses and stole mobile phones from passengers.

RAMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE
BENGALURU - 560 080.
Advt No.J1/2024 dated 04 September 2024
Raman Research Institute is a premier autonomous institute engaged in research in basic sciences funded by the Government of India. The institute invites applications for the following temporary post on contract basis:
Science Communicator - Videos for the Science Communication and Outreach activities of the Institute - 1 post
For details, please visit:
https://www.rri.res.in/careers/other-openings

APPOINTMENT

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MARINE DEPARTMENT
TUTICORIN - 628004
SAGARMALA
No. MAR-ESTAOREMU(CONF)/1/2023-MarineHM/D. 333 Date: 04/09/2024
Walk-in-Interview for engagement of 2 Trainee Pilots on a contractual basis
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the engagement of 2 Trainee Pilots on a contractual basis. Candidates having the requisite qualifications and experience may walk in for the interview along with their certificates, on any working day at the office of the Deputy Conservator, Harbour Estate, Tuticorin - 628004.
For more details, visit VOC Port's website at **www.vocport.gov.in** (Careers).
Walk-in-Interview shall remain open till 04/11/2024
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Deputy Conservator

JSS Mahavidyapeetha
JSS Science and Technology University
JSS Technical Institutions' Campus, Mysuru - 570006
Ph.D. Admission 2024
JSS Science and Technology University invites applications from highly motivated and research-oriented eligible applicants for admission to the Ph. D. program in various streams viz., a) Engineering & Technology b) Science and c) Management Studies for the year 2024 – '25*. The application form can be downloaded from the University website at http:/jssstuniv.in. Please refer the eligibility requirements and Ph.D. Regulations Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) from the University website.
Important Dates:

Last date for receiving the applications	: 30.09.2024
Ph.D. Entrance Test	: 26.10.2024
Announcement of Eligible Candidates for Interview	: 04.11.2024
Interview for the Candidates	: 09.11.2024
Announcement of Eligible Candidates for Admission	: 23.11.2024

For more details, please visit http:/jssstuniv.in
*Full-time fellowship is available for the deserving candidates based on the selection process

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CMRL invites applications from qualified & experienced personnel for appointment of under mentioned posts on deputation / contract basis: -

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2	JGM / DGM (Elevated - Design)	02				
3	JGM/DGM (Project Management Information System)	01		DGM - Rs.1,25,000/-	DGM - 13	DGM - 40
4	DGM (Electrical & Mechanical)	01	Deputation	Refer detailed employment notification for further details.		
5	DM (Transport Planning)	01	Contract	DM - Rs.75,000/-	DM - 4	DM - 35
6	DM (Quality Assurance / Quality Control)	01				
	AM (Quality Assurance / Quality Control)			AM - Rs.62,000/-	AM - 2	AM - 30

Note:
i. Please note the detailed employment notification will be published in CMRL website vide URL: **https://chennaimetrorail.org** on or before **06-09-2024**
ii. Salary is negotiable for deserving candidates.
iii. Last date for receipt of application is **03-10-2024.**
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* Maximum age limit for all post is 56 years
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Sd/-
DIRECTOR

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(An Institute of National Importance, Established under NITSER Act, Government of India)
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No.: 5214-NITK-Estt./Contract/2024/B1 Date: 27th August 2024
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Commencement of online Application	06.09.2024 from 10.00 Hrs
Last date for submission of online Application	26.09.2024 upto 18.00 Hrs

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Last date of submission of application by applicants is by 15.00 hours on
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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The fine on Clearview AI for creating an "unlawful database"

33.7 in million. The Netherlands' Data Protection Agency (DPA) fined Clearview AI over the creation of an "unlawful" database of billions of faces. PTI

The number of people killed due to Russian strikes on Ukraine

41 Two Russian ballistic missiles struck an educational facility and a nearby hospital in the Poltava region in central Ukraine, killing at least 41 people and wounding 180 others, the Ukrainian President said. PTI

The people killed in terror attacks in Pakistan in August

84 The August attacks take the total number of attacks in 2024 to 325, according to Islamabad-based think tank Pak Institute for Peace Studies. These incidents include 29 attacks in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. PTI

The Bangladeshis pardoned for protesting in the UAE

57 The convicted were imprisoned for their involvement in protests regarding the current unrest unfolding in Bangladesh. Human Rights Watch declared the convicts as "arbitrarily detained". PTI

Land under cultivation which got affected by Maharashtra rains

2 in lakh hectares. More than 200 persons were relocated and nearly 90 others rescued after heavy rains inundated several areas in Hingoli district of Maharashtra's Marathwada region. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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Did corporate tax cuts increase wages?

Tax cuts on profits do have immediate effects on income distribution. A reduction in profit taxes boosts the profits on already invested capital without necessarily increasing future investment, thus benefiting private capital while showing little to no benefits for wage-earners

ECONOMIC NOTES

Rahul Menon

In the years prior to the pandemic, two of the largest economies in the world – the U.S. and India – cut corporate tax rates in an attempt to stimulate growth. While the pandemic caused an unprecedented shock to the economy, enough time has passed for us to evaluate the effects of these tax cuts.

The effects of tax cuts in the U.S.

The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law by former President Donald Trump on December 22, 2017, and went into effect from January 1, 2018.

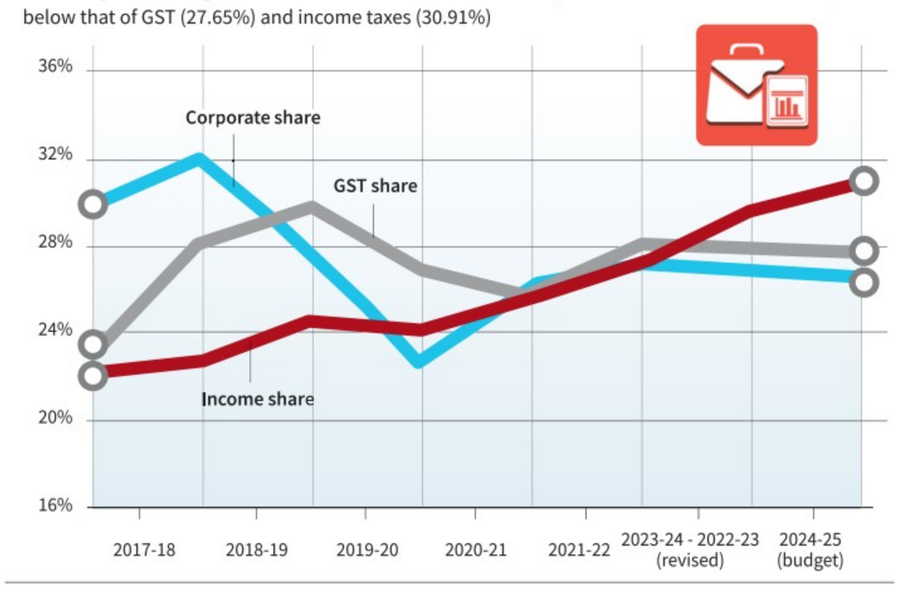
While the act affected personal and corporate taxes, one of the most significant provisions was the reduction of the top tax rate on corporate income from 35 to 21%. Proponents of the measure held that the move would ensure that companies invest more, leading to an increase in growth and employment. The new investment would also cause an upgradation in technology and productivity, leading to an increase in wages as well.

In a recent publication titled 'Lessons from the Biggest Business Tax Cut in U.S. History' (published in the Summer 2024 edition of the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*), economists Gabriel Chodorow-Reich, Owen Zidar and Eric Zwick examine the effects of the tax cut. They find that the cuts did have a positive impact on investment, with a range of studies estimating an increase in investment of around 8 to 14%. Furthermore, studies suggest that based on investment trends, there would likely have been a fall in investment if the tax cuts were not passed.

This is not to say that the tax cuts were an unambiguously positive outcome. This is a relatively small increase in investment, implying a long-run increase in GDP of only 0.9%, and an increase in annual wages of less than $1,000 per worker. This is in stark contrast to the claims of an increase in wages of around $4,000 to $9,000 dollars advanced by the Council of Economic Advisors in favour of the move. Furthermore, the reduction in tax rates imply a long-run reduction in tax revenue of almost 41%. The fiscal health of the U.S. economy has been impaired at the cost of higher profits and a marginal increase in wages.

Fig 1: The share of different tax sources

According to the budget estimates of 2024-25, the share of corporate taxes has fallen to 26.5%, below that of GST (27.65%) and income taxes (30.91%)



On tax cuts in India

Tax rates for corporates were cut in September 2019 in India, with the rate for existing companies reducing from 30 to 22%, and that of new companies from 25 to 15%. This resulted in a tax revenue loss of around 1 lakh crore in 2020-21. This tax could nevertheless prove to be of net benefit to the economy if it resulted in an increase in employment and investment.

The pandemic led to severe dislocations in the labour market, leading to high unemployment. Unemployment has reduced since then, with labour force participation rates rising, particularly that of women. However, the corporate sector has had little to do with this increase. Much of the increase in employment has come in the form of insecure work, with unpaid family work showing significant increases in the rural sector. According to the PLFS, the share of workers with regular wage employment at the all-India level has fallen from 22.8% in 2017-18 to 20.9% in 2022-23. Furthermore, when comparing the periods July-September 2017 and July-September 2022, the average nominal monthly earnings of rural and urban regular wage workers displays a CAGR (compounded annual growth rate) of 4.53% and 5.75% respectively, which is barely above the rate of inflation. In real terms, rural wages for regular employment have reduced, with relative stagnation for urban wages.

This is not to say that there has been no growth; corporate tax collections have shown healthy growth since the pandemic. However, it has had little to no effect on employment or wages. Tech companies in India have recently made the news for laying off workers, rather than expanding hiring.

Furthermore, tax cuts have led to a shifting of the burden of tax collections from corporates to individuals.

Figure 1 shows the share of three major sources of taxes – corporate taxes, income taxes and GST – in gross tax revenues of the Centre. In 2017-18, corporate taxes were almost 32% of gross tax revenues. It has fallen since then while the share of income taxes rose. According to the budget estimates of 2024-25, the share of corporate taxes has fallen to 26.5%, below that of GST (27.65%) and income taxes (30.91%).

This may explain the move of the Centre to remove indexation benefits and tax long-term capital gains, as it tries to find new sources of revenue to offset the falling share of corporate taxes.

What next?

Tax cuts would not necessarily boost investment if capital believes that the prospect of future profits are uncertain. In an economy recovering from the pandemic and from supply-related disruptions, tax cuts have exercised only marginal effects on private investment.

Tax cuts on profits do have immediate effects on income distribution. A reduction in profit taxes boosts the profits on already invested capital without increasing future investment, thus benefiting private capital while showing little to no benefits for wage-earners (who would gain only if investment raised employment, productivity and wages sufficiently).

Chodorow-Reich et al make the point that a suitable policy strategy would be to have high taxes on existing profits and increased incentives promoting future investment. These tax cuts have shown the difficulty of policy-making in an uncertain world.

Rahul Menon is Associate Professor in the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy at O.P. Jindal Global University.

THE GIST

- The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was signed into law by President Donald Trump on December 22, 2017, and went into effect from January 1, 2018. One of the most significant provisions was the reduction of the top tax rate on corporate income from 35 to 21%.
- Tax rates for corporates were cut in September 2019 in India, with the rate for existing companies reducing from 30 to 22%, and that of new companies from 25 to 15%. This resulted in a tax revenue loss of around 1 lakh crore in 2020-21.
- Furthermore, tax cuts have led to a shifting of the burden of tax collections from corporates to individuals.

Why is Google accused of being an illegal monopoly?

Why did the U.S. Department of Justice accuse Google of having an unfair advantage?

Prashanth Perumal

The story so far:

Google, the leading American technology company best known for its popular search engine, has lost a Court case filed against it by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2020 accusing the company of being an illegal monopoly. A U.S. District judge ruled earlier this month that the company indeed misused its dominant position in the market to block competitors from freely offering their services in the market.

Why was Google accused?

Google comes set up as the default search engine in most new phones, laptops and other electronic devices in the market. The company even pays billions of dollars each year, as a share from its advertisement revenues, to device manufacturers such as Apple, Samsung etc. to be featured as the default search engine in their devices. In fact, Google paid as much as $20 billion in 2022 to Apple to be featured as the default search on Safari, Apple's default browser. Google has also paid web browser providers such as Mozilla to be featured as the default search engine in their browsers. This practice is advantageous to Google and unfair towards other search engine providers as users could end up sticking to the default search engine in their new devices rather than make the effort required to try out better search engines.

Is Google really a monopoly?

The sheer size of Google, which is the leading search engine in the world with a market share of over 90%, has led many to argue that the company is a monopoly that abuses its dominant market power. Such a dominant position, it is believed, allows Google to dictate terms when it deals with people who want to do business with it or even use its services. Some also note that a big technology company like Google would have far more influence on regulators and the law in general than smaller companies.

Others, including interestingly the judge who ruled against Google in this case, however, have argued that a large market share alone does not make a company a harmful or illegal monopoly. They note that even though it may be very hard to compete against a behemoth like Google due to certain advantages the company naturally enjoys as the market leader, the fact remains that there are still no legal barriers against entry into the market of competitors who want to compete against Google by offering a better product. Further, there is also no guarantee that Google's absolute dominance of the search engine market will last forever. Microsoft's significant dominance of the search engine market came to an end with the advent of Google. The same thing could happen to Google if a competitor offers a better product, they argue. It is also believed that the threat of entry of competitors with better products will keep Google on its toes and limit the extent to which the company can abuse its market power.

Supporters of Google also note that there is nothing wrong with Google sharing ad revenues with device manufacturers such as Apple and Samsung. In their view, the practice of paying to be featured as the default search engine is no different from a company buying key real estate space to gain better visibility. Further, Google's competitors are also free to pay for such privileges. Finally, Google itself has argued that its position as the market leader is not simply due to its ability to pay to be the default search engine but rather due to the superiority of its service.

What lies ahead?

Court proceedings on action against Google are expected to begin next month. The Court could order Google to stop sharing ad revenues with companies like Apple to be featured as the default search engine on their devices. It may also mandate that users should be given the choice to pick the default search engine in their browsers. Another possible action by the Court could be to force Google to share information that it holds about user searches, which is believed to be a major reason for Google's superior performance, helping competitors catch up. And while the chances are remote, the Court may also order that Google be broken up into multiple companies so that there is no single dominant player in the market. Finally, Google may decide to appeal against the Court's order.

THE GIST

- Google, the leading American technology company best known for its popular search engine, has lost a Court case filed against it by the U.S. Department of Justice in 2020 accusing the company of being an illegal monopoly.
- Google pays billions of dollars each year, as a share from its advertisement revenues, to device manufacturers such as Apple, Samsung etc. to be featured as the default search engine in their devices.
- Supporters of Google note that there is nothing wrong with Google sharing ad revenues with device manufacturers such as Apple and Samsung. In their view, the practice of paying to be featured as the default search engine is no different from a company buying key real estate space to gain better visibility.

Officials must prevent forest encroachments: Siddaramaiah

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday said forest encroachments must be strictly controlled in the State. Speaking at the Chief Minister's Medal Award Ceremony for 2022 and 2023, Mr. Siddaramaiah said forest officers must also be strict in preventing forest encroachments.

"The responsibility to protect wildlife and forest resources lies with everyone. Except for Africa, India has the highest wildlife resources. Similarly, the extent of forests needs to be increased further. The responsibility of the medal recipients in protecting forest resources has increased even more," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

A total of 49 officers and staff of the Forest Department will receive the Chief Minister's Medal for distinguished service in forest conservation, wildlife protection, forest agriculture, forest management, training, research, planning, public participation, development work, human-animal conflict management, and implementation of innovative initiatives for the years 2022 and 2023.

The CM also said that medals for each year should be distributed in the same year and that there should not be any backlog in it.

KIA is now connected to 100 non-stop destinations

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has achieved an important milestone as it is now connected to 100 non-stop destinations. "Wow!! @BLRAirport is now connected to 100 pax destinations non-stop. Thank you to all our airline partners, investors and stakeholders," Satyaki Raghunath, COO, Bangalore International Airport Limited, posted on X.

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED ELCOT
CHENNAI - 600 035.
TENDER NOTICE

ELCOT invites bids for supply of the following tender

Tender No.	**ELCOT/Proc/OT/33826/ eCourts Phase-III/2024-25**
Tender Details	**Tender for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of IT & Non-IT Components for e Courts Phase-III project, High Court, Madras**
Pre- Bid Meeting	**13.09.2024 @ 11.30 AM**
Tender Submission Due date and Time	**08.10.2024 @ 03.00 PM**
Tender Opening Date & Time	**08.10.2024 @ 04.00 PM**
Earnest Money Deposit	**Rs. 50,00,000/- (Rupees Fifty Lakhs Only)**
e-Portal Charges	**Rs.11,800/- (including GST)**

The Bidders may download the tender documents, help documents and user manuals from **https://tntenders.gov.in**

MANAGING DIRECTOR
ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
692, II Floor, M.H.U. Complex, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.
e-mail: **procurement@elcot.in** URL: **www.elcot.in**

DIPR/3480/Tender/2024

MAHATRANSCO
Maharashtra State Electricity Transmission Co. Ltd.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER CPD/53 -2024-25

The due Date and Time of submission and opening of following SRM e-tender is extended as follows:

Tender No. & Description of Item	Estimated Amount (in Rs.) / Tender Fee (in Rs.)	Due Date & Time (Hrs.) for Submission & Opening of Tender
SP/T-0824/0824 [RFX No. 5000001288] [3rd Call] (Two Bid System) Procurement of 400 KV, 220 KV & 132 KV(Normal) & (Antifog) type Porcelain long rod insulators for all EHV PCC O&M Zones of MSETCL on One year Rate Contract basis on FIRM PRICE	Rs. 5451.61 / Rs. 25000.00 (excluding taxes)	13.09.2024 Up to 17:00 Hrs. / 13.09.2024 at 17:30 Hrs.
Pre-bid meeting Date, Time & Venue	**Date:** 02.09.2024 **Time:** 15:00 Hrs. Venue: 8th Floor, MSETCL C.O. 'Prakashganga' Plot No. C-19, E-Block, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra East,Mumbai, Maharashtra 400051	

Contact Person: Office of the Executive Engineer (P&C)
Tel. No.022- 69852711/ Cell no:-8329909813
Email: eegrp8@mahatransco.in, eepc@mahatransco.in
For further details visit our website http://www.srmetender.mahatransco.in
Any further amendments will be published on the MSETCL website www.mahatransco.in. So bidders are requested to check the website.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (P&C)

TAMIL NADU CIVIL SUPPLIES CORPORATION
Head Office, CMRL Admin Building, Poonamalli High Road, Koyambedu, CHENNAI-600 107.
Ph.No. (044) 26426773. Email id : tncsc.tn@nic.in.
CIN:U15137TN1972SGC006157

e-TENDER NOTICE

e-TENDER No. BS4/024250/2024/ TNCSC/24-25 **Date:03.09.2024**

Online e-tender invited for the **"Purchase of 1,44,000 Nos. of 'Y' cone as per specifications.**

Complete e-tender document can be viewed and downloaded through **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** from **04.09.2024 @ 7.00 P.M.**

The bidders have to participate only online bidding with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class-II or Class-III

Last Date and Time for Online Submission **: 19.09.2024, upto 11.30 A.M.**

DIPR/ 3494 /TENDER/2024 **MANAGING DIRECTOR**

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-06/TS/2024-25 **Date: 28.08.2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION No:06/2024-25
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited on behalf of the Governor of the State of Karnataka for the following works approved under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme - Grey Water Management Unit Works under the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement Transparency Act and Rules 2000 through e-procurment for the following works approved in the Department of Public Works. Tenders are invited from Suppliers (ZP Bangalore Rural MGNREGA Material Supply Enrolled) to Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Department, Bangalore Rural. Application for e-tender documents is requested to be submitted through Departmental website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Last Date for Submission of completed tenders for the said works: **18.09.2024 up to 5.00 PM.** For further information this office can be contacted during office hours. And the tender details are available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/SPAN/1817/2024-25

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, जामताड़ा

ई–अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई0–अल्पकालीन पुर्ननिविदा संख्या :– 08/RI/2024-25/RWD/JAMTARA दिनांक–02.09.2024
कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurement पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

क्र0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	प्रखंड का नाम		कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि अंक में (रुपया में)	प्राक्कलित राशि अक्षर में (रूपये में)	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि
1	RWD /JAMTARA/ STPKG-08/RI/2024-25	नाला	1	पलस्थली से जामबेदिया तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (5.100 कि.मी.)	10479350 0.00	दस करोड़ सैंतालीस लाख तीरान्वें हजार पाँच सौ मात्र	15 महीना
		नाला	2	मौरवासा से गोदापियाल तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (5.750 कि.मी.)			
		नाला	3	खस्तीपुर से मगुरा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (4.100 कि.मी.)			
		नाला	4	धोयाटाँड़ से दरार तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (2.050 कि.मी.)			
		नाला	5	बड़ारामपुर से सुल्तानपुर तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (2.500 कि.मी.)			
		नाला	6	कालाथोल से नारीथोल तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (2.820 कि.मी.)			
		फतेहपुर	7	देवजोड़ से धोवना एण्ड चक गीताजोड़ी तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण (1.430 कि.मी.)			
		नाला	8	हुसुमनगर से लक्ष्मणपुर तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (1.030 कि.मी.)			
		नाला	9	किस्टोपुर से पाकुड़ मांडु तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (1.700 कि.मी.)			
		नाला	10	घुटबोना से इन्द्रकुड़ी माया नौडीहा तक पथ का सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (5.650 कि.मी.)			

2. बेवसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि : 06.09.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 18.09.2024 अपराहन् 5:00 बजे।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समयः 20.09.2024 अपराहन् 3:30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पताः– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा, ब्लॉक–सी, प्रथम तल्ला, कम्बाईंड बिलडिंग, जामताड़ा, पिन–815351
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये बेबसाईट **jharkhandtenders.gov.in** में देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रा0का0वि0, कार्य प्रमंडल, जामताड़ा

PR 334528 (Rural Work Department)24-25*D

झारखण्ड सरकार
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय,
तृतीय तल्ला, नयासमाहरणालय भवन, पपरवाटांड़, गिरिडीह, झारखण्ड– 815301

ई–अतिअल्पकालीन निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

ई–निविदा सं0 :–**24/2024-25/RWD/EE/GIRIDIH** दिनांक :– 03.09.2024 ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह द्वारा निम्न विवरण के अनुसार e-procurment पद्धति से निविदा आमंत्रित की जाती है।

1.कार्य का नाम :–

क्र0 सं0	आईडेन्टीफिकेशन संख्या / पैकेज संख्या	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि (रुपया में) अंक में	अक्षर में	कार्य समाप्ति की अवधि	टेंडर कॉल संख्या
1	RWD/GIRIDIH/65/2024-25	डोमन पहाड़ी चुंगलो पीच रोड से केन्दुआ पीच रोड भाया दिवदाहा तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–2.000 कि0मी0)	1,91,44,200.00	एक करोड़ इकान्वे लाख चौवालीस हजार दो सौ रू0 मात्र	12 माह	प्रथम
2	RWD/GIRIDIH/66/2024-25	खरगडीहा पीच रोड से त्रिवेणी घाट भाया बेलकुण्डी तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–3.000 कि0मी0)	2,61,57,300.00	दो करोड़ इकसठ लाख सन्तावन हजार तीन सौ रू0 मात्र	15 माह	प्रथम
3	RWD/GIRIDIH/67/2024-25	खरियोडीह पीच रोड से कोदमबरी पथ भाया आजाद नगर तक पथ निर्माण कार्य। (लं0–1.500 कि0मी0)	1,46,24,600.00	एक करोड़ छियालीस लाख चौबीस हजार छः सौ रू0 मात्र	09 माह	प्रथम

2. वेबसाईट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि :– 06.09.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की अंतिम तिथि एवं समय :– 13.09.2024 अपराहन् 5.00 बजे तक।
4. निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय :–18.09.2024 अपराहन् 3.30 बजे।
5. निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का पदनाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग, कार्य प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह, तृतीय तल्ला, नया समाहरणालय भवन, पपरवाटांड़, गिरिडीह, झारखण्ड– 815301
6. ई–निविदा प्रकोश्ठ का दूरभाष सं0–06532–225381
विस्तृत जानकारी के लिए वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in में देखा जा सकता है।

ह0/–
कार्यपालक अभियंता,
ग्रामीण कार्य विभाग,कार्य प्रमण्डल, गिरिडीह

PR 334579 (REO)24-25*D

Government of karnataka
CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HASSAN. BM ROAD SANTHEPETE CIRCLE, HASSAN-573201.
Email:commn_hassan@yahoo.com Phone:08172-268276, 263033 web: http://www.hassancity.gov. Help line: 233702,Fax: 234792

No:DMA/CMC HSN/TENDER SEC/06/2024-24 DATE:02/09/2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, Hassan inviting tender for different works under different grants through e-procurement KPPP Portal (https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in) vide Indent Nos: (1) DMA/2024-25/IND2823-12.04 Lakhs (2)DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT25845-3.20 Lakhs (3)DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT27115-90.00 Lakhs (4)DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT 28949- 80.50 Lakhs (5)DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT 28968-50.00 Lakhs (6)DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT28975 -29.50 Lakhs (7)DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT28325-84.00Lakhs (8)DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT27973-11.50 Lakhs (9)DMA/2024-25/EL/WORK_INDENT 27968- 34.50 Lakhs & (9) DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT 28974- 34.50 Lakhs. Last Date for Tender Submission:21.09.2024 on/before 5.30 PM. For more details:Contact No.08172-268276

sd/- Commissioner City Municipal Council Hassan

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೧/ಹಿಸನ/ಹಾಸನ/399/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ
ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರವರ ಕಚೇರಿ, 3ನೇ ಮತ್ತು 4ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ಭವನ, ಕೆ.ಜಿ.ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560009

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಗೃಮಂ/ಹಂಚಿಕೆ–8/ಬೇಡಿಕೆ ಸಮೀಕ್ಷೆ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 23.08.2024

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಬಳ್ಳಾರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮಿಂಚೇರಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವ LIG, MIG, HIG-I, HIG-II ವರ್ಗದ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳ ಹಂಚಿಕೆಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯಿರುವ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ನೋಂದಣಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರಂಭಿಕ ಠೇವಣಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 31.10.2024 ರವರೆಗೆ. ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ : https://www.khb.karnataka.gov.in ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಗೃಹ ಆಯುಕ್ತರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಗೃಹ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/1807/Zen/2024-25

RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LTD.
(Yermarus Thermal Power Station)
(Joint venture of KPCL and BHEL)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

ABSTRACT TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two cover system) (Through e-procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from the bidders for the following works: **(1)** KPCL/2024-25/PM/WORK_INDENT 1730, CALL-3, Dated: 29.08.2024. **Name of the work:** Refurbishment of released Air-preheater 2A Rotor Drive unit Gear box. **EMD: Rs.1.80 lakhs. (2)** KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT 1532, CALL-4, Dated: 29.08.2024. **Name of the work:** Installing stud ferule with plastic refractory in Boiler Lower Furnace area in Unit 1&2. **EMD: Rs.95,300/-.** Last date and time for receipt of tenders: 12.09.2024 @ 16:30 hrs for both works. Further details can be had from office of the **Executive Engineer (M-1) Yeramarus-584134, Raichur (Tq. & Dist.), Karnataka.**

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES
ESTATE OFFICE, GKVK, BENGALURU-560 065

NO. EO/TN/4/2024-25, **DATED: 23-08-2024**

TENDER NOTICE (Through KPP Portal Only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore has invited Tender in the prescribed form as per Standard Tender Document KW4 from the registered KPWD Contractors/ Reputed Firm for the work **Arranging Exhibition stalls and other allied works for Krishimela from 14th to 17th November 2024 (4 days) at GKVK Campus on hire basis**. The details of the notification, tender document, specifications available are in the website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. The cost of tender document is as per e-procurement portal. The EMD has to be paid in the e-procurement portal using e-Procurement payment modes.

The details for two cover system are to be uploaded as per Standard Tender Document KW-4.

The Pre-bid meeting will be held on **13.9.2024 at 10.30 AM**. The Blank Tender Documents can be down loaded from **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**. Last date and time for uploading is **21.9.2024 up to 4.00 p.m**. The Technical bid will be opened on **23.9.2024 at 10.30 a.m.** Financial bid will be opened on **26.9.2024 at 10.30 a.m.** For more details please contact e-portal help desk at **support@eprochelpdesk.com** or **8046010000/ 8068948777** on working days and this office during working hour, Phone No.080-23332765.

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

DIPR/CP/1823/AKAR/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Kppp Portal only)

KPCL invites tenders from eligible bidders for the following works:

(1) No. KPCL/2024-25/WORK_INDENT1491/Call-3, Dated: 28.08.2024, Testing and Certification of Tools & Tackles, Pressure vessels in RTPS Plant. **EMD Rs.49,300/-.**

(2) No. KPCL/2024-25/WORK_INDENT1741/Call-3, Dated: 29.08.2024, "RTPS-Rubber lining with new natural rubber in place of damaged portion in various types of vessels at DM Plant-1&2 for the period of one year" **EMD Rs.19,000/-.**

Tender documents may be downloaded from the GoK Kppp website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Last date and time for submission of tenders **12.09.2024, 17:29 hrs.** (Sl. No. 1), **& 13.09.2024 upto 17:00 hrs. (Sl. No. 2),** Further details can be obtained from **The Executive Engineer (Safety), Mobile: 8277502793. The Executive Engineer (CAM)-2,** KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar-584170, Karnataka.

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone)
BBMPSouth Zone, 9th Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar, 2nd Block, Bangalore -560011

No: SADH(S)TENDER/12/2024-25 **Dated: 03.09.2024**

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR TENDER(IFT)
(SHORT TERM) (TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks as per standard tender document KW-1.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Civil Maintenance in Vijayanagara Constituency Parks. **Category**: SC.
2	Civil Maintenance in Basavanagudi Constituency Parks. **Category**: ST.
3	Civil Maintenance in Chickpete Constituency Parks. **Category**: Other.
4	Civil Maintenance in Padmanabhanagara Constituency Parks. **Category**: Other.
5	Civil Maintenance in BTM Layout Constituency Parks. **Category**: Other.
6	Civil Maintenance Jayanagara Parks in Constituency **Category**: SC.

For above each work Estimate cost : Rs.19,99,581/-. and **for each work EMD:** Rs.50,000/-

Calendar of events as follows: 1) Date of Notification : 03.09.2024. 2) Tender can be downloaded from : 06.09.2024. 3) Pre bid Meeting : 10.09.2024 at 4.00 PM. 4) Tender Closing Date: 17.09.2024 at 4.00 PM. 5) Technical bid opening date : 18.09.2024 at 4.30 PM. 6) Financially bid opening date : After Approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (South Zone)

BANGALORE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Office of the Director cum Dean, Fort, K.R. Road, Bengaluru - 560002. Telephone: 080-26700810, Tele Fax: 080-26704342
E-mail: director_bmcri@yahoo.co.in

No: BMCRI/SUP(2)/07/2024-25 **Dated: 02-09-2024**

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 for the **Purchase of Laptop, Computer, IT Accessories and CC TV Camera which are required for BMCRI and Attached Hospitals and also for the issue of Laptop under SCSP / TSP Scheme to Students.**

The tender documents may be downloaded from e-Procurement Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 03-09-2024** and Last Date for Submission of Tenders through e-Procurement website is **04-10-2024 upto 5.00 PM.** Those tenders which are not submitted with EMD will be rejected.

For further details contact **Director cum Dean, Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute, Bengaluru.**

Sd/- Director cum Dean,
BMCRI, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/1813/Adverto/2024-25

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Govt. of Karnataka Enterprises)
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Manchanabele Project Division, Ramanagara - 562 159.
Phone : 080 - 2727 1259. E-mail : eempdrmgm@gmail.com

Tender Notification No. : 08/2024-25 **Date : 03-09-2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)
https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

The CNNL hereby invites Tender for the work under 4701 & 2701 Head Account through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Portal.

The Last Date for Tender Submission, Opening of Technical Bid, Financial Bid and Pre-Bid Meeting Date, EMD details and more information can be downloaded from the Website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in Portal and for further information please visit Office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
C.N.N.L., M.P. Division, Ramanagara.

DIPR/Ramanagar/294/Manipal/2024-25

Govt. of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Vijayapur
Tel.No:08352-277816, Fax.No:08352-277817,
E-Mail:zpebjp9@yahoo.co.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇ.ವಿ/ವಿಜ/ಇಪ್ರಾ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2024–25/1844 ದಿನಾಂಕ:02.09.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System)

Executive Engineer, PRE Division, Vijayapura has invited e-tender for the works under the CM Special Grant and Educatio Dept. Deposit Grant Scheme for the year 2023-24 Rs. 150.00 lakhs 3 Works (Indent No 8116, 8117 & 8111) vide Tender Publication No.1844 Date: 02.09.2024. For more information about the tender, the information can be collected at the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or visit the office of the said Division during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
P.R.E. Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೨/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/205/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

Bangalore-Mysore Infrastructure Corridor Area Planning Authority
No. 5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009. Tel: 080-22341230/35, E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/28/2024-25/816(1) Date: 30-08-2024

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sr.Immaculate, Swargarani Educational Institution, has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture"** to **"Educational"** purpose, pertaining to Sy.No: 193/3 extent of 01Acre-07Guntas, Sy.No:193/4 extent of 01Acre-24Guntas (including 0A-02Guntas 'A' Kharab), Sy.No:194/2 extent of 01Acre-38Guntas and Sy.No:192/6 extent of 0Acre-19Guntas totally measuring 05Acre-08Guntas of Kodiyalakarenahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for Agriculture zone in approved Master plan. The Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By establishing educational institution in the above said lands students of the nearby surrounding villages will get opportunity to study in this educational institutions which has modern educational amenities.
2) By establishing educational institution the above said lands there will be job opportunity for the teaching staffs.
3) By establishing educational institution in the above said lands, area surrounding to it will be developed.
4) By establishing educational institution in the above said lands there will be creation of office jobs and so on.

Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication **within 15 days** from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bangalore

DIPR/CP/RO1826/AAPL/2024-25

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(Raichur Thermal Power Station)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Following e-tenders are published in KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under "Goods Category" on 27.08.2024 & 28.08.2024 (for 1 to 5 Works) on 30.08.2024 & 31.08.2024 (for 6 & 7 Works) as per RTPS requirements below mentioned procurements. **1) No.KPCL/2024-25/INDENT1169/Call-2:** Procurement of over running clutch, filter lubricator and taper lock bush. EMD: **Rs. 25,000/-. *2) No.KPCL/2024-25/INDENT1119/Call-2:** Procurement of Sealing compound 30-45 for BM-2 of RTPS. EMD: **Rs. 4,000/-. 3) No.KPCL/2024-25/INDENT1196:** Procurement of P22 Bends. EMD: **Rs. 1,000/-. 4) No.KPCL/2024-25/ INDENT1193:** Procurement of Dozer spares for RTPS on ARC basis for a period of two years. EMD: **Rs. 22,600/-. 5) No.KPCL/2024-25/INDENT0969/Call-3:** Procurement of 40NB Teflon Hose. EMD: **Rs. 4,000/-. *6) No. KPCL/2024-25/INDENT1194:** Procurement of Vaccume line bends, Branch header valve and Y bends for Unit-7 & 8 of AHP. EMD: **Rs. 55,000/-. *7) No. KPCL/2024-25/INDENT0968/Call-3:** Procurement of Oxygen gas & Argon gas for RTPS. EMD: **Rs. 5,300/-.**

*** Sl. No. 2, 6 & 7 are on short term basis.** : Last date & Time for receipt of tenders: (For Sl. No. 1, 3, & 5): **12.09.2024 upto 04:00 pm**. (For Sl. No. 2, 4, 6 & 7): **09.09.2024 upto 04:00 pm**. Interested bidders may submit the bids through e-Tendering website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from Executive Engineer (Purchase), Mobile:9449597966 RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State.

KEYWORD

GETTY IMAGES

The harm principle: how John Mill's theory defines the extent of liberty

John Mill states that liberties can be restricted only when our actions cause harm. If any act that you do injures another person, you can be punished for it. But that brings us back to the fundamental question: what really constitutes harm?

Radhika Santhanam

A few days ago, a minor girl was gang-raped in the Dhing area of Nagaon district, Assam, allegedly by three Muslim men. As anger over the horrific incident and against the community escalated, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, who has called Muslims a "communal organisation" in the past, said he would not allow "Miya Muslims" to "take over all of Assam" ('Miya Muslim' is a derogatory term used against the minority Bengali Muslim community.) Mr. Sarma has made such remarks in the past, which have been slammed by the Opposition and termed by some people as hate speech.

The objection to Mr. Sarma's statements is twofold. First, he is a Chief Minister who took an oath saying he will bear true faith and allegiance to India's secular Constitution. Second, by making such remarks, he is denigrating an entire community and furthering an already deeply rooted bias against them, in a State which has suffered ethnic violence.

Some may argue that Mr. Sarma is exercising his right to free speech. While free speech is a fundamental right, the Constitution allows for certain "reasonable restrictions" to it. Others may argue that this is hate speech. There are many provisions in Indian law that criminalise offences characterised as hate speech. However, hate speech is not defined in the Indian legal framework.

The harm principle

In order to understand free speech and the extent to which it can be restricted or controlled either by society or government, it is worth revisiting the 19th century philosopher John Stuart Mill's seminal work, *On Liberty*. Mill's work is the bedrock of what we refer to today as libertarianism. Mill believed that true societal happiness (utilitarianism) can be achieved only when people are free to exercise their choices. He urged for minimal state intervention in the exercise of liberties, arguing that "the only power that can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilised community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others". This is called the 'harm principle'.

His point was seemingly simple and straightforward: if any act that you do physically injures another person, you can be punished for it. For example, if you walk around with a cane, you do not hurt anyone, but if you slam that cane against a person's head, that constitutes harm or assault, which can call for state intervention. To put it theoretically, Mill separated our actions into two categories: 'self-regarding actions' and 'other-regarding actions'. Self-regarding actions affect only the individual and not others, while other-regarding actions affect others or society.

However, this distinction is not always clear. We can argue that all our actions affect the people around us or society at large. For instance, if a person develops a drinking problem, he may not be harming anyone else, but his excessive drinking may be causing immense stress to his family and he could be turning emotionally and physically abusive.

Mill believed that that the state or society do not have any justification in restricting self-regarding actions. However, the state or society can control other-regarding actions. While society can control actions which may hurt others but do not violate any legal rights (by, say, ostracising an individual), the state can control other-regarding actions when there is a violation of legal rights (by imposing a punishment). In *Navtej Singh Johar vs. Union of India*, the Supreme Court of India buttressed its conclusion that the state cannot criminalise homosexuality by recalling Mill's theory.

Freedom of speech and expression

In short, Mill said liberties can be restricted only when our actions cause harm. But that brings us back to the question: what really constitutes harm? We could define harm as an act that makes a person worse off because of another person's actions. But this is still tricky terrain. If a family or a doctor decides that a terminally ill patient, who has been bedridden for 40 years, is better off dead, will their decision constitute a harm or will it help the patient by putting an end to her suffering and indignity?

Is harm also only physical? Nowadays, we have many debates on the harms caused by disinformation and misinformation. Mill, being a libertarian, believed that there must be complete freedom of thought and expression. He argued, "If all mankind minus one were of one opinion, and only one person were of the contrary opinion, mankind would be no more justified in silencing that one person, than he, if he had power, would be justified in silencing mankind...

"The peculiar evil of silencing the expression of an opinion is that it is robbing the human race; posterity as well as the existing generation; those who dissent from the opinion, still more than those who hold it. If the opinion is right, they are deprived of the opportunity of exchanging error for truth: if wrong, they lose, what is almost as great a benefit, the clearer perception and livelier impression of truth, produced by its collision with error." Here, Mill essentially says that if we disregard an opinion as false, we will not have any challenge to our views and we may even be wrong (he cites the example of Socrates). False beliefs provide us with the opportunity to constantly defend our beliefs, making sure that they remain a living truth rather than dead dogma. It is only when our beliefs are constantly challenged that they are strengthened. And if we disregard an opinion which is actually true, then we would be deprived of knowing the truth and correcting our false views. Therefore, all opinions must be allowed to flourish.

However, Mill does acknowledge that freedom of expression could be limited under some cases. He cites an example: "An opinion that corn-dealers are starvers of the poor, or that private property is robbery, ought to be unmolested when simply circulated through the press, but may justly incur punishment when delivered orally to an excited mob assembled before the house of a corn-dealer, or when handed about among the same mob in the form of a placard... The liberty of the individual must be thus far limited; he must not make himself a nuisance to other people."

This seems logical when the potential harm is apparent. But what happens when Bengali Muslims are referred to as 'Miya Muslims' and consistently dehumanised with the potential harm not immediately clear? According to Mill's theory, it could always be argued that it is not right to completely ban it since we could be deprived of that shade of opinion. At the same time, allowing hate speech could psychologically harm a group and could even incite other groups to violence. In Rwanda, for instance, the radio station RTLM, which had allied with leaders of the government, had been inciting the ethnic majority called Hutus against the Tutsi minority, by repeatedly describing them as inyenzi ("cockroaches") and as inzoka ("snakes"). The constant hate-mongering over time culminated in a genocide.

What happens when state actors themselves promote speech that could cause harm and agencies that are meant to keep them in check fail to do so?

Mill's case for free speech is not built on a foundation of universal rights. Rather, it is based on the belief that free discussions will correct our errors and benefit humanity in the long term. Such unhindered discussions, as we know, are often threatened by both societal and state power.

While Mill's vision of a liberal-minded world is not what we see today, his 'harm principle' continues to be discussed and impacts law even today.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The release of Kangana Ranaut's film 'Emergency' has been mired in controversy. Here is a quiz on other biographical political drama films in India

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
What is the movie *Emergency* about? Kangana Ranaut will play the role of which politician?

QUESTION 2
This 2019 Hindi-language political film is based on the 2014 book by Sanjaya Baru. It stars Anupam Kher in the lead role. Name the film. Who was it based on?

QUESTION 3
This Marathi-language biopic based on Nitin Gadkari was released in 2023. Who played the role of Gadkari? Name the film.

QUESTION 4
Main Atal Hoon is a 2024 biographical film on former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Name the actor who essayed the role of Vajpayee.

QUESTION 5
This 1993 biographical drama film was written by noted playwright Vijay Tendulkar. Paresh Rawal portrayed the role of the main freedom fighter and politician on whom the film is based. Name the politician.

QUESTION 6
This 1997 Tamil-language epic political drama, directed by Mani Ratnam, stars an ensemble cast including Mohanlal, Prakash Raj and Aishwarya Rai in lead roles, portraying the roles of some of the most well-known politicians from Tamil Nadu. Name the movie.

Visual question:
Identify this film from the poster. The film is based on which noted politician?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The 'B' in Zyklon B was the first letter of the German name for the substance. This was the substance in English. **Ans: Prussic acid**
2. This country in 1916 used Zyklon B during World War I. **Ans: France**
3. At the Nazi concentration camp in Majdanek, Poland, Zyklon B served this purpose in barrack 42. **Ans: Disinfecting clothing**
4. In 1946, these men became the only two businessmen to be executed for Nazi war crimes in Western Europe. **Ans: Bruno Tesch and Karl Weinbacher**
5. The primary constituent of Zyklon B is deadly because it inhibits the action of this enzyme. **Ans: Cytochrome c oxidase**
Visual: Identify this man. **Ans: Harry S. Truman**
Early Birds: Pranab Biswas| Bharath Viswanathan| Arvind Tillway

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"I'll never talk to that couch potato again! What does he mean...."

"Hey, keep your shirt on, will you?"

"What do you mean 'Keep your shirt on'? Can't you see that it is on."

"As I said before, keep your shirt on."

"If you say that one more time.."

"You'll what? Do you know what 'Keep your shirt on' means?"

"No."

"If you don't know, then say so. There's no point in getting angry."

"Sorry."

"Never mind. 'Keep your shirt on' is another way of telling someone to stay calm, not to get worked up."

"In other words, you're asking me to stay cool."

"Exactly."

"But what's the connection? How can a person be calm by keeping his shirt on?"

"Tell me, what do men do when they become really angry with another?"

"They have a big argument. And if things get out of hand, they might even come to blows."

"Yes, they come to blows. They have a fist fight. But before fighting, they normally remove their shirts, don't they?"

"Not anymore."

"Well, in the good old days, they used to take off their shirts and fight."

"So when someone took off his shirt, it meant he was angry and ready to fight."

"Right. So when you tell someone to keep his shirt on, you are requesting him to stay calm, there is no need to fight."

"One of these days, I'm going to tell my grandfather to keep his shirt on! We had an argument."

"Really? About what?"

"About some programme on TV. You see we were watching the 7 o'clock programme last night and he asked me who I thought was the best looking girl in it. When I said it was Bina, he told me I was nuts."

"Your grandfather is right."

"What?"

"Bina isn't telegenic."

"Telegenic! what does it mean?"

"What does photogenic mean?"

"Someone who looks good in photos."

"Exactly. And a person who appears good on television is said to be telegenic."

"You sound like my grandfather. Anyway, after talking about Bina, he went on to talk about some very old actress. After five minutes, he ended the lecture by saying 'that is the naked truth'."

"What was he talking about?"

"I don't know. But tell me, why do people say 'the naked truth'."

"'Naked truth' means 'plain or undisguised truth'. There's an interesting story behind this expression."

"A story! Please tell me."

"Two Goddessess, the Goddess of Truth and the Goddess of Falsehood, went to bathe in a stream. Falsehood finished bathing first. When she came out, instead of wearing her own clothes, she deliberately put on Truth's clothes. When Truth came out, she found her clothes missing. She did not want to wear Falsehood's clothes; so she walked around naked and everyone saw 'the naked Truth'."

Published in The Hindu on March 30, 1993.

Word of the day

Foray:
a sudden short attack; an initial attempt; steal goods; take as spoils; enter enemy territory

Synonyms: strip, ransack, rifle, plunder, pillage, loot, raid, maraud

Usage: *It was her first foray into politics.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/foraypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈfɒɹ.eɪ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Dengue cases cross 25,000 mark, highest ever in State

12 deaths reported so far this year. Toll-free helpline number has been set up to seek information

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BBMP workers fumigate residential areas to control the spread of dengue in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The number of dengue cases this year has crossed the 25,000 mark, the highest ever in Karnataka. As of Tuesday (September 3), the State has recorded 25,589 cases and 12 deaths. Over 15,000 cases have been added to its total tally in the last 45 days.

The increase is significant this year, with the numbers reported till August 3 crossing the entire last year's figure of 19,300. In one month, from August 3 to September 3, as many as 6,276 cases were reported.

As of Tuesday, active cases stood at 1,561, of which 191 are being treated in hospitals, including four in the ICU, according to data from the State Health Department.

Of the total 25,589 cases reported so far, 516 are aged below one year, and 9,129 are aged less than 18. While three deaths are from BBMP, two each have been reported from Shivamogga, Dharwad and Hassan and one each from Davangere, Haveri and Mysuru.

In 2023, Karnataka recorded 19,300 dengue cases, the highest in the last 10 years. The highest number of deaths were reported in 2019, with 17 patients succumbing to the vector-borne disease, followed by 11 in 2023. Compared to 3,759 cases recorded during the corresponding period in 2023 (from January till September 3), the BBMP has recorded 11,673 cases this year, over a three-fold rise. With nearly 45% of the State's total cases this year being reported in Bengaluru, the city continued to record the most positive cases. Bengaluru is followed by Mandya with 882 cases, Hassan and Mysuru with 839 and 820 cases, respectively, this year.

Surge in dengue cases

- Dengue cases reported this year till September 3: **25,589**
- Cases reported in entire 2023: **19,300**
- Deaths this year: **12**
- Active cases: **1,561**
- Number of patients hospitalised: **191,** including four in ICUs
- Highest number of cases from BBMP areas: **11,673**
- Toll-free helpline number for dengue: **1800-425-8330**

In July, the State government fixed a price cap of ₹300 each on Dengue Elisa NS1 antigen and Dengue Elisa IgM antibody tests in private hospitals and diagnostic laboratories. For a rapid card screening test (NS1, IgM and IgG antibodies), the government has fixed a price of ₹ 250.

A toll-free helpline number – 1800-425-8330 – has also been set up for people to seek information or register complaints regarding dengue-related issues. The Health Department also directed major government hospitals under its ambit in Bengaluru to reserve a specific number of beds for patients testing positive for the vector-borne disease.

Slapping penalties

State Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said although the number of cases reported daily has reduced from around 300-350 reported last month to around 200 in September, officials are now empowered to monitor prevention measures and slap penalties for non-compliance strictly. So far, except in Bengaluru and Mangaluru, officials did not have legal enforcement powers, he added.

BDA issues public notice to acquire land for toll plaza on proposed PRR

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) on Tuesday issued a public notice to acquire 19.75 acres of land for building a toll plaza on the proposed Peripheral Ring Road (PRR). BDA has asked these property owners to claim ownership of these lands and submit objections, if any, over the next 15 days.

This public notice comes nearly a month after BDA issued a similar public notice to acquire 71 acres of land for four interchanges in July.

Even as the BDA is moving ahead with issuing public notices to acquire land, farmers who were notified about the acquisition of their lands for the PRR project as far back as 2005 and who have challenged the same in the High Court are raising questions over the same.

Peripheral Ring Road

- BDA officials say after two tender calls failed to attract bidders, government decided to build PRR on its own
- Land acquisition cost for the project is expected to be around ₹20,000 crore
- Some farmers, who had gone to court over an earlier notification, have raised objections
- In July, BDA issued a similar notice to acquire 71 acres for four interchanges

"We have challenged the validity of this project as the main notification of the project has already lapsed. Unless the High Court decides this issue, BDA cannot execute these bits and pieces of the project like toll plazas and interchanges," said Krishna Ramesh, a farmer whose land was notified for the project in 2005. He also wondered whether BDA had the financial resources to acquire their lands, give them adequate compensation, and execute the PRR project.

The notice comes nearly a month after BDA issued a similar public notice to acquire 71 acres of land for four interchanges

Raising loans

Senior BDA officials said after two tender calls failed to attract bidders for the project, the State government had dropped the plan and has now decided to build PRR on its own.

Senior officials in the BDA said the authority is now mulling over raising a large loan from international agencies to fund both the cost of land acquisition and building the road. Earlier, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) had approved a loan of ₹3,800 crore to build the road, but the State government was supposed to fund land acquisition costs, which became prohibitive.

Cross-subsidy model

While the toll levied on the road would be enough and provided as a guarantee for the loan to build the road, that wouldn't be enough to raise a loan to fund land acquisition cost for the project, which is expected to be around ₹20,000 crore. To fix this problem, there is a new proposal to reduce the right of way of the road from the proposed 100 metres to around 60 metres and commercially develop the remaining land to cross-subsidise the project and pay back the loan. However, a senior BDA official said that the state cabinet would take a decision on this.

Four held for stealing sarees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A sales executive of a silk saree showroom nabbed four women stealing silk sarees after visiting the showroom as prospective clients.

They would conceal the sarees in their garments after diverting the sales executives' attention. The gang was busted when they visited the Silk House showroom in JP Nagar on Sunday. After checking many sarees, the accused concealed 10 more sarees and tried to go out when suspecting their behaviour the sales executive stopped them and recovered the stolen sarees.

The gang had committed two more thefts at saree showrooms in Jayanagar and J.P. Nagar and made away with 20 silk sarees in August last year.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client intends to purchase/acquire the property described in the Schedule hereto below free from all encumbrances from its owners. Any person or persons, having any claim, interest or right on the property described in the Schedule written hereunder or any part thereof by way of any litigation(s) pending before any court or tribunal or governmental or statutory authority or by way of inheritance, sale, exchange, mortgage, lien, pledge, gift, trust, bequest, possession, lease, charge, easement, grant, tenancy or encumbrance howsoever or otherwise is hereby required to intimate the same to the undersigned in writing within **Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice of his/her/its claim, if any, with all supporting documents, failing which the transaction shall be completed without reference to such claim, and the claims, if any, of such person (s) shall be treated as waived and not binding on our client.

THE SCHEDULE REFERRED TO ABOVE

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties totally measuring 25 Acres 2 Guntas, situated at Kylasanahalli Village. K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, more fully described in the table hereunder:

Sl. No.	Sy Nos.	Extent Acre	Extent Guntas	Boundaries to the properties
1.	28/2	1	20	East by Land in Sy No 28/3 and 28/6 West by Land in Sy No 28/4 North by Road South by Land in Sy No 28/7
2.	28/5	2	00	East by Kalkere Village Boundary West by Land in Sy No 28/19 North by Land in Sy No 29 South by Kere Angala
3.	28/7	1	31	East by Bileshivale Village Boundary West by Land in Sy No 28/1 North by Land in Sy No 28/2,4 and 6 South by Land in Sy No 28/8, 9,10,11 and 12
4.	28/8	4	2	East by Land in Sy No 28/9 West by Land in Sy No 28/1, 30, 34 and 35 North by Land in Sy No 28/7 South by Kere Angala
5.	28/9	2	27	East by Land in Sy No 28/10 and 28/13 West by Land in Sy No 28/8 North by Land in Sy No 28/7 South by Kere Angala
6.	28/10	1	2	East by Land in Sy No 28/11 and 28/13 West by Land in Sy No 28/9 and 28/13 North by Land in Sy No 28/7 South by Kere Angala
7.	28/11	1	22	East by Land in Sy No 28/12 West by Land in Sy No 28/10 North by Land in Sy No 28/7 South by Land in Sy No 29
8.	28/12	1	1	East by Bileshivale Village Boundary West by Land in Sy No 28/11 North by Land in Sy No 28/7 South by Land in Sy No 29
9.	28/13	0	17	East by Land in Sy No 28/10 West by Land in Sy No 28/9 North by Land in Sy No 28/9 South by Kere Angala
10.	28/14	0	33	East by Land in Sy No 28/15 West by Land in Sy No 28/10 North by Land in Sy No 29 South by Kere Angala
11.	28/15	0	33	East by Land in Sy No 28/16 West by Land in Sy No 28/14 North by Land in Sy No 29 South by Kere Angala
12.	28/16	0	33	East by Land in Sy No 28/17 West by Land in Sy No 28/15 North by Land in Sy No 29 South by Kere Angala
13.	28/17	0	28	East by Land in Sy No 28/18 West by Land in Sy No 28/16 North by Land in Sy No 29 South by Kere Angala
14.	28/18	0	28	East by Land in Sy No 28/19 West by Land in Sy No 28/17 North by Land in Sy No 29 South by Kere Angala
15.	28/19	1	36	East by Land in Sy No 28/5 West by Land in Sy No 28/18 North by Land in Sy No 29 South by Kere Angala
16.	29	3	9	East by Bilishivale and Kalkere boundary West by Land in Sy No 28 North by Land in Sy No 28 South by Land in Sy No 28

Date : 04-09-2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
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From Page One

Dengue notified as epidemic in State

According to the amended regulations, The authority can inspect any land or building between sunrise and sunset after giving reasonable notice. The owner or occupier must facilitate the inspection and provide necessary information. If mosquito breeding is found, the authority can issue a notice requiring action within a specified time, not less than 24 hours, to eliminate the breeding ground using suitable methods (physical, chemical, or biological).

Penalties for non-compliance

Under the new regulations, the competent authority has the power to levy penalties ranging from ₹400 for households in urban areas and ₹200 for rural areas for non-compliance. For commercial establishments, offices, schools and colleges, and healthcare facilities, the State has fixed a penalty of ₹1,000 in urban and ₹500 in rural areas.

Urban and rural areas

"For active or abandoned construction sites and vacant land, a penalty of ₹2,000 has been fixed in urban areas and ₹1,000 in rural areas. Fifty per cent of the total fine amount will be levied additionally for each week of continued non-compliance after receiving a notice from the competent authority," the order states.

HC refuses to quash POCSO case against govt. school teacher

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wondering what a government school teacher was doing with five mobile phones, the High Court of Karnataka has refused to quash a criminal case registered against a 46-year-old drawing teacher of a residential school run by the Social Welfare Department for allegedly capturing images and videos of girls when they were changing clothes.

"What is shocking is that the petitioner has five mobile phones. All the mobile phones are seized and sent to FSL. Each of the mobile phones has close to 1,000 images and several hundred videos. The petitioner is a drawing teacher. Why he is in possession of five mobile phones, and what are the videos and pictures therein, are all a matter of investigation," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while dismissing the petition filed by Muniyappa, who has been booked under the provision of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

"The fact that he is a drawing teacher in the residential school and holds five mobile devices is inexplicable, which can be thrashed out only in an investigation or a full-blown trial. Each of the mobile phones has SD card, which again has a lot of material according to the Forensic Sciences Laboratory report," the court noted.

The petitioner had claimed that he was falsely implicated based on some reports by a local television channel, and the word "changing dresses" was added in the complaint to wreak vengeance against the petitioner as he had complained to the authorities about the alleged use of children to clean water and sewerage tanks of the school.

Observing that there are *prima facie* ingredients to attract provisions of the POCSO Act, the court said that the petitioner has to come out clean in a full-blown trial, as intervening at this juncture would be putting a premium on the alleged illegal activities that are horrendous and indecorous on the part of the petitioner being a teacher.

Police set world record

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru City Police set a world record for providing 2,500 police personnel with Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and basic first aid life support skills in a day which has been recognised by London Book of Records.

The training was held at the Sri Kanteerava Indoor Stadium and organised in collaboration with the Sankalpa Chase Cancer Foundation on January 14. The event saw the participation of traffic and law and order police, security personnel from the Vidhana Soudha, and 48 security personnel from Raj Bhavan.

The organiser of the event handed over the world record certificate to City Police Commissioner B. Dayanand on Tuesday.

THE HINDU
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Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, SEP. 04		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:28
RISE	06:57	SET 19:21
THURSDAY, SEP. 05		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:27
RISE	07:42	SET 19:54
FRIDAY, SEP. 06		
RISE	06:09	SET 18:27
RISE	08:26	SET 20:27

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	25
Mysuru	30	21
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Day will be slight warm with cloudy sky. Night will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower is a chance.

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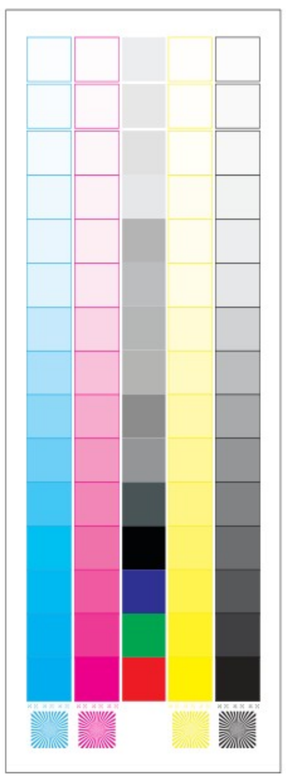

One-of-a-kind Active Mobility Centre of Excellence to be set up in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A one-of-a-kind Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Active Mobility in India will be set up in Bengaluru by the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Sustainable Transportation Lab (IST Lab.) and Urban Morph. A memorandum of understanding for the same was signed on Tuesday.

"The centre will work on research, plans, collaborations, and monitoring and evaluation of human-powered transportation modes like walking and cycling towards making the cities solve efficiencies in transportation be it full trips or last/first mile, and become more livable. It will also include modes and methodologies that make our public spaces offer equity in mobility to gender, age, economic strata and disabilities," according to a press release from the centre.

Along with being a one-stop shop for stakeholders in cities across the country to access high-quality research, plans, and activities to enable the nation to achieve health, transportation, and climate goals via Active Mobility, the Centre also aims to bring together the ecosystem in an open collaboration model.

It will also work on the vision of a liveable city with quality of life driven by Green Urban Mobility and onboarding members from across, government, institutions, civil society and industry.

"The sustainable and livable future for our cities also lies in the past of our cities (of 70s and 80s) when a lot of people used to cycle and walk. We need to bring them back to build a sustainable future, which is where this unique CoE will contribute," said Ashish Verma, Convenor, IISc Sustainable Transportation.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No : 17 UBL 2024-25 dated: 22.08.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites e-tender for the following work.

SL	Item of Work	Approximate Cost
1	Annual Maintenance Contract of GM Intercom of Ericsson make Model MD-110 & Ericsson make Model BP-250 for a period of one year.	Rs. 1,40,514.55
2	Repairing Contract for Walkie Talkie and VHF 25 Watt Base Stations of Motorola make over Hubballi Division.(For a period of two years).	Rs. 3,99,061.20
3	Repairing Contract for Walkie Talkie Sets and VHF 25 Watt Base Stations of Kenwood make over Hubballi Division.(For a period of two years).	Rs. 5,90,147.10

Last date of submission of bid
Upto 11.00 hrs on 24.09.2024
For details log on : **www.ireps.gov.in**
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, PUB/386/AAD360/PRB/SWR/2024-25 Hubballi
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

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With rise in milk procurement and piling up of powder, district unions struggle to make up for losses

The average procurement of milk by KMF has been hovering between 90 lakh and 95 lakh litres a day this peak season

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Saddled with a huge stock of milk powder, which is piling up by the day owing to non-lucrative price in the market, the district milk unions are struggling to cut down losses with a few unions resorting to reduction in milk procurement price over the past few months. Currently, a stock of 15,000 tonne of milk powder is lying with the unions across the State, blocking their capital and restricting their ability to make fortnightly payments to farmers.

The huge rise in the daily procurement of milk by the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) that has been pegged around 10% more than the last year has increased the average procurement across all district milk unions during this peak season. The average procurement of milk by KMF has been hovering between 90 lakh and 95 lakh litres a day this season. Last month, procurement even crossed one crore litre mark a day for the first time in 50 years of KMF's existence. "The milk unions received increased quantity of milk as they had paid higher procurement price to farmers.

Milk being procured from farmers at a co-operative society at Malur village in Channapatana taluk of Ramanagara district. FILE PHOTO

These are now being reviewed by unions to cut down losses," KMF sources said.

Earlier, KMF attempted to offset the losses by adding 50 ml milk to milk packets and charging an additional ₹2 per packet.

Currently, of the total milk procured, the federation sells about 62 lakh to 65 lakh litres daily in the fresh milk segment that includes milk, UHT milk, and curd, and consumes a couple of litres more for milk by products, including sweets and ice creams. "As much as 25 to 27 lakh litres of milk is currently going for conversion as milk powder daily. While the current milk powder rate in the market is between ₹205 and ₹210 a kg, the sustainable rate would be anything above ₹235 per kg". The 15,000 tonne stock is after the weekly supply of about 900 tonne of milk powder to school and anganwadis under Ksheera Bhagya scheme.

While the Kolar Milk Union cut down the procurement price by ₹2 a litre in July, the Raichur-Koppal-Ballari Milk Union cut the price by ₹1.5 a litre a few days ago. Similarly, the Mandya Milk Union reduced the procurement price by 70 paise a litre in July. While the issue came up for discussion in the Bengaluru Milk Union Ltd. (BAMUL), it put off the decision and another round of discussion is expected to take place next week. The Mysuru Milk Union is also contemplating to reduce the procurement price.

Seasonal and normal

The increasing stock of milk powder and unviable market rate is blocking the capital for milk unions, which are resorting to procurement rate cuts, sources said, adding that rate cuts are seasonal and normal cycle. For example, BAMUL alone has a stock of over 4,000 tonne of milk powder currently. Former BAMUL president S.N. Narasimhamurthy said that unions were suffering losses with the sale of milk powder as production cost was around ₹300 per kg.

Stating that the milk powder stock situation is not 'alarming', sources said that the powder will fetch good price from December as milk production comes down. "Realisation of good price for powder will take some time and we are hoping the powder price will move up. Till then, the unions have to sustain," sources said.

Meanwhile, Union Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy and Pralhad Joshi have condemned the cut in procurement prices and called it a blow to the farming community.

Congress seeks disqualification of Chalavadi Narayanaswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Congress delegation led by Saleem Ahmed, the State government's chief whip in the Legislative Council, called on Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at the Raj Bhavan on Tuesday and alleged that Leader of the Opposition Chalavadi T. Narayanaswamy was involved in a land grabbing case on the outskirts of Bengaluru and demanded his disqualification from the membership of the Council.

In what is seen as a tit-for-tat move, in a petition submitted to the Governor, the Congress alleged that Mr. Narayanaswamy is "*prima facie* guilty of offences" under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, and under sections 316 and 318 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) Act, 2023.

Last week, Mr. Narayanaswamy petitioned the Governor seeking sacking of RDPR and IT&BT Minister Priyank Kharge from the State Cabinet for the allotment of five acres to Siddhartha Vihar Trust run by AICC chief Mallikarjun Kharge's family at a Hitech Defence Aerospace Park near Bengaluru out of the 45.94 acres earmarked for civic amenities in March 2024.

The Governor has sought an explanation on it from the government.

The Congress, in its petition on Tuesday, alleged that Mr. Narayanaswamy grabbed land allotted for the construction of a school at Hoskote in Bengaluru Rural district. The plot belonging to Veerendra Singh and others was acquired by the Karnataka Housing Board (KHB) in 1986. Mr. Singh and others submitted representation in 2003 and sought re-conveyance of land in their favour. However, Mr. Narayanaswamy being one of the directors of KHB deliberately kept the application pending, the Congress alleged.

The MLC acting as the president of Adarsha Social and Education Trust made an application for allotment of "stray site" by KHB in 2004. The stray site was carved out of the land acquired from Mr. Singh.

NoC from KHB

"Strangely, the KHB issued a no objection certificate on April 16, 2005," stating that the KHB has "no objection to the MLC to raise a loan towards the purchase of the land." This was clearly done at the behest of Mr. Narayanaswamy who abused his position as the director of the KHB to get a blanket no objection certificate issued. He "flagrantly breached KHB Act and rules", the delegation alleged.

The petition said Mr. Narayanaswamy, acting as the president of Adarsha Social and Education Trust, let out the property for running "Anand Dum Biryani, Hoskote."

Another allegation

The petition also alleged irregularities in allotment of two acres to Mr. Narayanaswamy under the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board at Hebbal II phase in Mysuru for the manufacture of Software Package Development on July 21, 2006, the Congress said.

'Audit report objected to grant of 19 acres to Kharge's trust'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP Rajya Sabha MP Lahar Singh Siroya has alleged that the audit report of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department in 2017 had observed that the 19 acres of land allocated "free of cost" to the Pali Institute run by the Siddhartha Vihara Trust, said to be linked to AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge's family, is not in "larger public interest".

In a social media post, Mr. Siroya said the report had asked how a one-month-old trust could be given government land, when it should have existed for a minimum of five years to become eligible. He reiterated his demand for an independent probe.

Govt. to place report on COVID irregularities before Cabinet

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said the State government will place the report submitted by Justice John Michael D'Cunha on alleged irregularities in COVID-19 management during the BJP regime at the next meeting of the Cabinet scheduled for September 5 to decide on the future course of action.

Fielding queries from reporters in Mysuru on Tuesday, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he was not aware of the contents of the report submitted by Mr. D'Cunha, retired judge of the High Court of Karnataka who investigated alleged irregularities in the purchase of equipment and medicine during the pandemic.

Reacting to a statement by K. Sudhakar, who was the Minister for Health in the erstwhile BJP government headed by Basavaraj Bommai, that the Congress government is indulging in 'revenge politics' against BJP leaders, Mr. Siddaramaiah sought to know the reason behind the former Health Minister's reaction when the contents of the report are not yet public.

"Nobody knows what is in the report. Does he (Mr. Sudhakar) know?" he asked. Mr. Siddaramaiah said Mr. Sudhakar may be gripped by a 'feeling of guilt' to react in such a manner even before the contents of the report had been made public.

Developments in MUDA

To a question on the suspension of former Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) Commissioner G.T. Dinesh Kumar, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the decision may have been taken by the Urban Development Department.

When pointed out that another former MUDA Commissioner D.B. Natesh is also facing the charge of irregularities in the allotment of MUDA sites under the 50:50 ratio scheme, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the government will take action based on the report submitted by the commission headed by retired HC judge P.N. Desai.

Visual treat

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at the launch of Karnataka Suvarna Ratha near Kote Anjaneya Swamy temple in Mysuru on Tuesday. M.A. SRIRAM

Bellad apologises to CM for his remarks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Arvind Bellad has issued an apology to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah for his recent remarks made in the context of offer of land to Jindal at concessional rate.

During a media conference at Palace Grounds, Mr. Bellad questioned the Chief Minister's involvement in the Jindal land deal saying: "Is it Mr. Siddaramaiah's father's property?" Mr. Bellad has written to Mr. Siddaramaiah expressing regret for his choice of words.

Mr. Siddaramaiah took to X to appreciate Mr. Bellad's gesture and said it was a sign that "value-based politics was still alive."

MUDA Commissioner a small fish, act against big sharks: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terming the suspension of former MUDA (Mysore Urban Development Authority) Commissioner as an indication of the Congress government "admitting" that allotment of 14 sites to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's wife was against norms, the Opposition BJP on Tuesday stepped up its demand for the Chief Minister's resignation.

The BJP also alleged that the government was in a "state of coma" as the entire focus of the government was on defending the Chief Minister with respect to alleged scams rather than administration. Taking to social media, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra said: "Finally, the Siddaramaiah government had to bow and relent to the strength of the Opposition and public will."

'Government in a state of coma as focus is on defending the CM rather than on administration'

However, the government still remained stubborn and was trying to protect itself by making the former MUDA Commissioner a "sacrificial lamb", Mr. Vijayendra alleged. "He is just a small fish in this corruption scandal. There are bigger sharks, who are deeply involved in corruption, and only a thorough CBI investigation can unravel the truth. The Chief Minister should resign immediately to facilitate investigation," he said.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the Congress government was in a coma as no development works were progressing. Accusing the government of withholding the payment of contractors' bills to the tune of ₹1,500 crore in Bengaluru for non-payment of commission, he said this had resulted in piling up of garbage on streets and pothole-ridden roads.

BJP criticises spending on Gruha Lakshmi reels

Mr. Ashok took exception to Minister Laxmi Hebbalkar announcing rewards to beneficiaries of Gruha Lakshmi scheme if they uploaded reels on social media on the positive impact of the scheme.

"The Minister has not developed infrastructure of anganwadis owing to paucity of funds. But she is set to spend ₹60 to ₹70 crore on reels," he said.

Disagreeing with Mayawati, most BSP leaders in State quit party

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Disagreeing with the stand taken by Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on internal reservation (sub-categorisation within the reservation quota for Scheduled Castes), most of party's State- and district-level office bearers in Karnataka unit, including State president Marasandra Muniyappa, have quit the party.

Following the Supreme Court order that has paved way for internal reservation in the quota meant for SCs, the BSP supremo had taken a view against internal reservation while agreeing with the apex court's observation on creamy layer issue.

"However, we feel that the party's stand against internal reservation would affect nearly two crore people representing Madigas (Dalit Left) in the South Indian States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telengana, and Tamil Nadu. Historically, Madigas have lost out on reservation in education and employment among other things, and internal reservation would help Madigas," Mr. Muniyappa said.

BSP supremo had taken a view against internal reservation while agreeing with SC's observation on creamy layer issue

According to him, the issue of sub-categorisation has not cut the ice with the BSP president, who has so far refused to meet office bearers of party units in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana. Mr. Muniyappa said his association with the BSP was since 1988. All like-minded leaders from BSP will meet on September 9, he said.

Though a marginal player in Karnataka's politics, the BSP was in a seat-sharing alliance with the JD (S) during the 2018 Assembly polls.

Different equations

Sources said the Chammara community among others, that is equivalent of Madigas (Dalit Left faction) in the South, supports BSP in the North and the Chammaras have majorly benefitted from the current reservation, The BSP does not want to upset the current arrangement. However, in Karnataka, the 49 sub-castes among the Madigas have been demanding internal reservation as they feel that Holeya communities (Dalit Right) have benefitted from current reservation more than them.

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DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Elevated corridors will boost congestion, not kill it

The real congestion-killers — such as more BMTC buses, suburban rail, Namma Metro, and a robust BMLTA for planning and coordination — are all in slow motion

Rasheed Kappan
BENGALURU

A traffic jam on Outer Ring Road between Nayandahalli junction and Kerekodi junction. K. MURALI KUMAR

Flyover as a congestion-killer is an idea that was dumped worldwide decades ago. Yet, the obsession with these elevated, "signal-free" corridors continues. Despite seasoned mobility analysts crying out loud that flyovers only shift congestion and don't remove it, 17 such behemoths are on the government's agenda for Namma Bengaluru.

The real congestion-killers - a 15,000-plus fleet of BMTC buses, fast-tracked suburban rail and Namma Metro, a robust Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) to plan and coordinate all things mobility - are all in slow motion. Meanwhile, the government announces its decision to build 17 elevated corridors on key arterial roads with a total length of 100kms. The estimated project cost: ₹12,000 crore.

Eight years ago, the proposal to build a steel flyover from Chalukya Circle to Mehkeri Circle had triggered unprecedented public protests. The prospect of a concrete monster slicing through the city's heart, felling hundreds of fully grown trees, faced a backlash so strong that the project was shelved a year later. However, the idea of such flyovers as the perfect fit for motorised mobility never lost traction among the decision-makers.

Flawed development model

Vinay K. Sreenivasa from the Bengaluru Bus Prayanikara Vedike attributes this 'stubbornness' of seeing only flyovers /elevated corridors as development to an economy built around them. "It is easier to profit from such projects than, say, a Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS). Although BRTS will make more money, for some reason they see only the corridors as development," he elaborates.

Since the official mobility policy has for decades favoured the motorists, the latter tend to approve and even demand such projects. As Vinay points out, "Car-goers ask for this. They don't want bus lanes, they don't want public transport. They just want their cars to go fast."

18 million motorised trips

Once obsessed with moving cars and SUVs and not people, developed cities are now demolishing flyovers to make way for shared mobility. Private, personal vehicles are being disincentivised and made prohibitively expensive to drive within the city. But here, notes Vinay, even the big industrialists are backing and building elevated corridors such as the one on Hosur Road. "They are the ones who have widely travelled. They can see what works and what doesn't, but they are pushing for these projects," he laments.

A file photo of traffic congestion on Hebbal flyover.

The city has an estimated population of about 15 million (1.5 crore). "Assuming that the per capita trip rate is close to 1.2 where everyone -including senior citizens and children - is doing 1.2 non-walking, motorised trips, you have 18 million trips every day. While bus travel accounts for about 4 to 4.5 million trips and the Metro about a million, you have 12.5 million trips to address," says Pawan Mulukutla, Executive Director. Transport at the World Resources Institute (WRI) India.

Now the burden of filling this 12.5 million gap is on private personal vehicles and shared commute options, the two-wheelers, cars, auto rickshaws and other modes. Is this feasible, and are flyovers the way ahead?

Pawan is clear that public transport should take care of at least 10 million trips. "What should the government do at the policy level to enable this? How can they augment the fleet? I have been tracking BMTC for years, and haven't seen the bus numbers touch 7,000. This should change. This understanding should creep into the political economy."

Long-commute needs

One sure-shot way to arrest congestion is to curtail the need to commute long distances. This implies building residential areas close to the workplaces. But the mushrooming of work clusters in and around Hebbal, Outer Ring Road, HSR Layout, Koramangala besides Whitefield and Electronic City has made housing extremely pricey in these areas. The assumption, as Pawan notes, was the property prices and amenities would be uniform. "But that doesn't hold good now. Housing has now created an overdemand for mobility needs."

The trend, clearly visible across the city, is this: People are now shifting their homes away from the work zones to distant locations on the city's periphery. Inevitably, this has triggered a huge demand for longer travel, increasing the trips to 18 million and beyond.

Will flyovers solve this problem? "Flyovers only create bottlenecks. They do not solve the problem if you are not expanding the end-to-end capacities of the roadway / public transport, like say from South to North, East to West, by at least 40-50 km. All that you do is shift the problem to different parts of the city. Within months, you can see the congestion spreading, ending up 3 km upstream or downstream," he explains.

Prioritise alternative modes

The solution, as Zibi Jamal from the Whitefield Rising reiterates, is to prioritise the completion of the suburban rail, add another 10,000 BMTC buses and enhance Metro connectivity with more coaches. "The promise of completing the suburban train project within 40 months is forgotten, the deadline unattainable. The collective wisdom says buses will solve the problem. Flyovers incentivize private vehicle ownership and from the world over, we have seen the traffic will just not end," she says.

Indeed, the Metro project is moving with Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) unveiled for new lines and reaches. But as Zibi points out, the city needs eight-car trains and not the existing six. This will help increase the frequency from eight minutes to five minutes, mitigating the mad rush during peak-hours. Due to capacity constraints, the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) is often forced to run services on loop, stranding thousands at multiple stations.

To drive home the congestion problem, the government talks about 1,500 new cars being added to the city's roads. Zibi's point is this: "If you tell people that they are getting these flyovers and corridors, the trend will continue. As the Metro rush shows, people are willing to take the public transport, but make it comfortable and convenient. Add more buses, build good bus stops and they will come."

There are ways to work around constraints. Pawan draws attention to the need for policy regulations that mandate land developments in excess of 500 homes to themselves arrange shared commute options to the closest Metro Stations. "Why is the government being a mute spectator? The developers should be asked to put up the infrastructure to support the commute needs. Many of these are within 2-3 km of a Metro Station," he explains.

Reduce private vehicles

Reducing the dependence on private vehicles for work trips is the fundamental principle of congestion management, says Pawan. "Work trips happen during peak hours from Monday to Friday. Most complaints about congestion relate to three-hour hours in the morning and four-five hours in the evening. Why not let people take 7 metre buses that BMTC can operate under its brand to link all Metro stations to nearby residential areas?"

Alternative options are available and doable if they are explored and activated beyond the realm of flyovers and elevated corridors. Flyovers can only address traffic at a micro level, at an intersection. As he stresses, "At a city scale, do they solve congestion? The answer clearly is no. In Mumbai, under Nitin Gadkari as PWD Minister, they built 45 flyovers on the Eastern and Western express highways. Everything is a chokepoint today. Gadkari himself has gone on record at multiple forums, admitting that it was a wrong solution."

National-level conference on health policy at IIMB

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over 200 delegates, including leading researchers, practitioners, and policymakers in public health will be in the city to attend the fourth national conference on Bringing Evidence into Public Health Policy from September 5 to 7 at the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB).

The theme for the conference will be, 'Health governance, policy and institutional frameworks for just and sustainable health systems.'

According to a press release, IIMB is collaborating with several institutions to host this event.

Over 41 researchers from 14 Indian States and 5 Asia-Pacific countries will present unreleased and peer-reviewed evidence for policymaking.

"We hope to continue to nurture this platform to bring together policymakers and researchers from across the country and from South Asia for learning and sharing," said Dr. Prashanth N.S. Director, Institute of Public Health Bengaluru.

Old is the new young: Senior citizens rediscover purpose at job fair

At the event in Bengaluru, more than 30 companies offered roles to professionals ranging from engineers and technicians to administrators, instructors, and retail executives

Syeda Zainab
BENGALURU

Senior citizens take part in a job fair organised by Nightingales Medical Trust in association with St. Joseph's University and Rotary Bangalore West. SUDHAKARA JAIN

A recently held job fair in Bengaluru buzzed with an energy that belied the age of its participants. Seniors from across the city gathered for the Nightingales Job 60+ fair, an event that showcased a growing trend among India's ageing population: the desire to stay active, purposeful, and financially independent long after the traditional retirement age.

"I have the desire to breathe my last breath while working," said retired teacher A.S. Taj, who visited the fair with her husband. Her words encapsulated the spirit of the event, where seniors, some well into their seventies, came looking for opportunities to contribute their skills and experiences to the workforce once again.

500 attendees, 30 companies

Organised in partnership with Rotary Bangalore West at St. Joseph's University in Shanthinagar, the fair drew over 500 attendees and featured more than 30 companies offering roles ranging from engineers and technicians to administrators, instructors, and retail professionals. Several employers conducted on-the-spot interviews, and many seniors walked away with job offers in hand.

Derek Hamilton, a 72-year-old retiree from Sarjapur, having worked in education for over 51 years, wasn't ready to step away just yet. "I retired some time back, but I want to get a job because I still feel I have the energy, and I still feel I can contribute," he said. "I want to be with children, teachers, and parents instead of sitting at home and cooking."

'Jobs 60 Plus'

The job fair is part of Nightingales Medical Trust's "Job 60 Plus" initiative, which has been helping financially insecure elders find employment for over a decade. The initiative aims to combat the challenges many seniors face in India, such as rising living costs, lack of pensions, and dependence on others for livelihood. S. Premkumar Raja, co-founder and honorary secretary of the trust, explained the significance of the programme, which was held on August 25. "Many elders, who retire at 58 or 60, find it difficult to lead a life of dignity. Through our 'Job 60 Plus' programme, we assist financially insecure elders in finding employment," he said.

It's a lifeline

For some attendees, the job fair was more than just a chance to find work – it was a lifeline. "I have kids and a husband, who is alive, but it's of no use. My husband lives with my daughter; both of them offer me no support," said 68-year-old Nagalambike H. "So now I've come here in hopes of finding a job to sustain myself."

Others, like Joyce Shakti, a recent retiree at 60, came in search of a new purpose. "I thought I'd enjoy retirement, but there is actually nothing to do," she said. "I want to look for a job again, to keep myself engaged and also because it's healthy for my mind. Especially females, after 60, we think we should adopt the mindset that we're aged, but I disagree. Retirement is not the end of the road.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1974

Move for Informal Rationing in all Towns

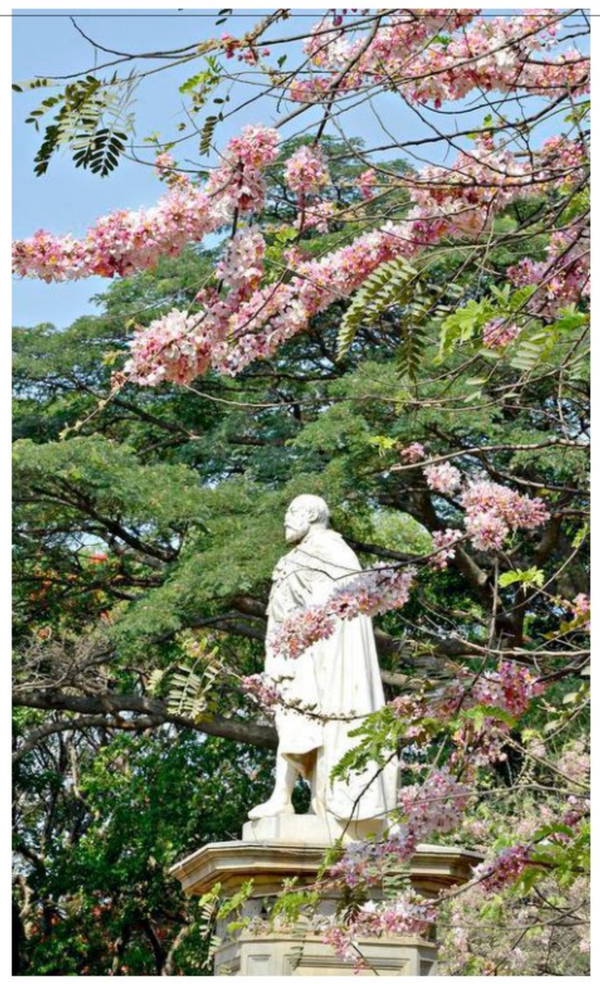
Bangalore, Sept. 3. The Food and Forest Minister, Mr. K.H. Patil, told the Karnataka Assembly today that the Government was collecting data about vulnerable sections in the State with a view to ensuring food grains to them from next year. Answering questions from B.G. Banakar (Cong), the Minister said that the intention of the Government was to introduce informal rationing in all towns with a population of one one lakh and more. The Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs told Mr. Kagodu Thimmappa (Soc), that the State Government had informed the then Bombay Government in 1958 that it did not want any storage in the Koyna reservoir at that time but would reserve its rights to Koyna waters either from the Koyna storage or otherwise. He said that after the reorganisation of States, the Maharashtra Government had requested the State Government to participate in the Koyna project.

Wrangle over Urs 'Offer': Assembly Adjourned

Bangalore, Sept. 3: The Karnataka Legislative Assembly scheduled to sit till September 7, was adjourned sine die to-day following a prolonged wrangle between the Opposition and the treasury Bench for the third day over the reported offer by the Chief Minister. Mr. D. Devaraj Urs said that he would quit office if anyone proved the allegations of casteism and nepotism made against him and the Opposition demand for a judicial enquiry to go into the allegations.

A ghost in wax

Australian artist Daniel Press challenges perceptions of colonial monuments through an exhibition featuring Bengaluru's King Edward VII statue



From the beyond Statues of and sculptures of King Edward VII as part of ' Send-Off. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Praveen Sudevan

India grapples with a complex colonial legacy. While it has undoubtedly shed the yoke of British rule, remnants of the colonial past continue to linger. From grand architectural marvels to contested statues, India navigates a path of rejecting and embracing these bygone symbols. This very tension is partly explored in an art exhibition thousands of miles away, on another continent.

In Send-Off, which was on display in July at the La Perouse Museum, Southern Sydney, Australian sculptor and curator Daniel Press explores the complexities of British colonial monuments scattered across the globe through wax sculptures. One, titled 'Haunted Hobart: Bengaluru, India', offers a particularly intriguing perspective for Indian audiences. The sculpture is a 3D scan of the controversial King Edward VII statue in Cubbon Park, Bengaluru.

The statue of King Edward VII in Bengaluru has a complicated history with the Karnataka government. The marble figure has been subjected to both neglect and restoration. In the 1960s, city activists called for removing statues symbolising British rule, including this one.

The state government even announced its removal in 1977, but the statue surprisingly remained. By the 2010s, neglect took its toll – layers of dust accumulated, and the statue suffered cracks, a broken nose, and a chipped shoe. However, the tide turned in 2017, with restoration efforts finally giving the monument a fresh shine.

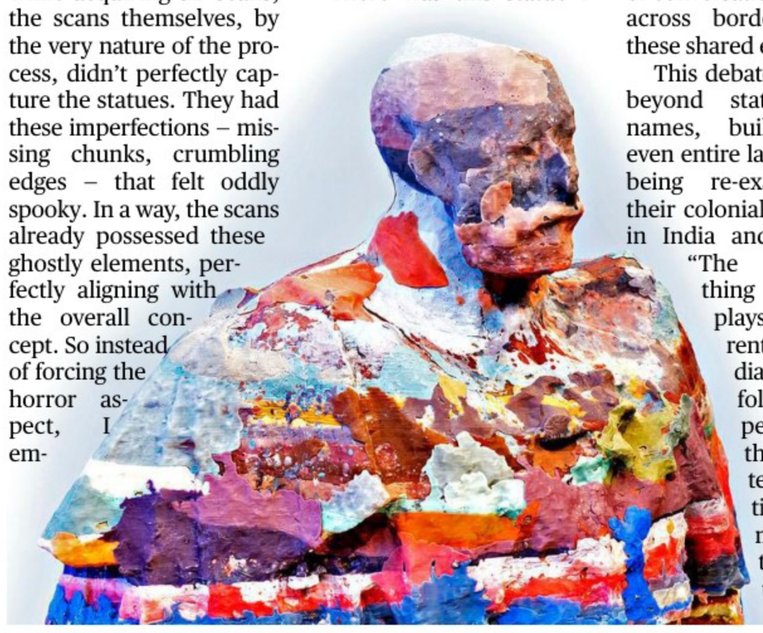
But Haunted Hobart is not a mere imitation of King Edward VII in wax; it is more expressionistic. The jagged, multicoloured bust looks more like its title – it is almost as if Daniel sculpted the ghost of King Edward VII.

While visually striking, it delves deeper thematically. The project explores this colonial legacy *haunting* different locations.

Similar to a ghost, the 3D scans themselves act as non-physical representations. They capture the essence of the statues and allow for manipulation and transformation into entirely new sculptural forms.

""Originally, I was drawn to the idea of body horror as a way to explore these themes," says Daniel over phone from New South Wales.

"Then something interesting happened. The limitations I encountered while acquiring 3D scans, the scans themselves, by the very nature of the process, didn't perfectly capture the statues. They had these imperfections – missing chunks, crumbling edges – that felt oddly spooky. In a way, the scans already possessed these ghostly elements, perfectly aligning with the overall concept. So instead of forcing the horror aspect, I embraced the limitations to further the project's core message."



The project started because of a personal connection, says Daniel. "There was this statue I used as a landmark every day, getting around the city. It got me thinking – how many of these wayfinding things are the same worldwide? Is some kind of conversation happening across borders through these shared elements?"

This debate extends far beyond statues. Street names, buildings, and even entire landscapes are being re-examined for their colonial associations in India and elsewhere.

"The interesting thing is how this plays out in different stages. In India, in the years following Independence, there were often iconoclastic movements, a push to remove these symbols altogether."

The conversation has evolved. Today, a wider range of approaches are emerging around the world. Some cities remove statues entirely, while others add plaques or contextual information to challenge the original narratives. There is a growing recognition that these symbols, however uncomfortable, can also serve as prompts for historical reflection and public dialogue.

"Send-Off, I believe, makes a strong case for the instability of these statues and their placements. Government bodies constantly reaffirm the intended messages these statues represent in their locations, but there's an undeniable level of uncertainty surrounding them. By creating these works that spark a dialogue, I'm exploring the potential of 3D scanning in public spaces," says Daniel.

"This technology is still evolving, and using it in this context creates a kind of rupture in the traditional narrative. It allows the statues to participate in new conversations, ones that transcend their physical locations. Ultimately, the core theme here is about bringing these statues into a broader, global conversation."

Send-Off was displayed at La Perouse Museum, Southern Sydney, until July 28. Daniel also plans to take it to other parts of Australia and later overseas, including the city where King Edward VII's statue stands near a frangipani tree at Queen's Park.

EATING OUT

A biryani story

Priyamedha Dutta

Biryani has always been an intrinsic part of India's culinary landscape, with its flavours and preparation methods changing as one travels from Kashmir in the north to Kanyakumari in the south.

From the royal kitchens of the kings to the tables of the British Raj, what we call comfort food today, has travelled across centuries and landscapes, picking up its unique flavour along the way. South India alone boasts of more than 10 different styles of biryani with each State offering its own flavourful twist to this iconic dish.

Among them, Dindigul biryani from Tamil Nadu's Dindigul district has now made its way to Bengaluru. In Koramangala known for being one of the food havens of the city, this new biryani spot has already garnered a lot of attention from influencers and chefs alike.

Helmed by the Ponram family, Dindigul Ponram from where it derived its name, began as a small shop in Begampur, Dindigul that was later converted into an eatery by V. Ponram Yadav in 1973. Today managed by their fourth generation, Dindigul Ponram has become synonymous with its mutton biriyani, and its predominantly meat-based sides. We were told what makes this biriyani truly unique is the carefully handpicked spices that they procure directly from farms.

The pepper comes from Ayyampalayam, cardamom from Thandikudi, cloves from Thadiyankudisai, nutmeg from Ayyampalayam, hill garlic from Poombarai, and the brinjals and green chillis are from Dindigul.

The restaurant in Koramangala is their sixth, and first outlet outside Dindigul. Once inside, the place has all elements of your friendly family restaurant with a touch of Tamil Nadu in the interiors. The colour palette has warm tones of terracotta with paintings on the wall that resemble Dravidian-style temple architecture.

Once inside we started off with their signature mutton biryani – tender pieces of lamb when combined with the fragrant, aged *seeraga samba rice* is a flavourful treat. Each spice in the biryani is carefully woven together giving a mild yet hearty flavour to the dish. The fat-to-meat ratio has been standardised to ensure more flavour, without the customary heaviness.

To go with the biryani we tried the mutton chukka varuval and mutton *egg* varuval – boneless cubes of mutton *tava* roasted with chukka masala. What looked very spicy was a mildly spiced dish that did not overpower the taste of biryani.

If you are a parotta fan and confused about what to order with it, the Ponram kozhi kari masala is a good option, comprising of tender chicken slow-cooked with their signature masala, and goes well with both parotta and biryani.

We then tried mutton cola urandai, deep-fried crispy minced mutton balls, a must-try with their biryani. We also tried their mutton kari dosai, Dindigul-style thick poured dosai topped with boneless mutton, egg and masala.

We then tried mutton paaya, mutton trotters cooked with coconut milk and coconut oil, with veetu dosai. Though the dosai itself comes with three different types of chutney, coconut, tomato and pudina, we liked it best with the *paaya*.

As we end our meal, Ponram is an experience etched in tradition and history, where each dish is carefully crafted with ingredients that represent the soul of the soil.

Shop No 575, Ganapathi Temple Rd, Koramangala 8th Block. From 12 noon till 11pm. For reservations call 903288 3288

Ponram
Hits: Boneless mutton biryani
Misses: None
Wallet factor: *₹1000 for two*

Evergreen favourites Mutton *cola urandai* (above) and biryani. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Exuding a strong sense of the aesthetic

Ruth Dhanaraj

Bengaluru-based Gallery Time and Space is hosting Art and the Now, an exhibition in collaboration with the Society of Contemporary Artists, Kolkata.

Curated by Renu George and her team, the exhibition features the work of around 20 artists, all of whom are members of the Society of Contemporary Artists, Kolkata. The Society of Contemporary Artists (SCA) was founded in 1960 by artists such as Shyamal Dutta Ray, Sanat Kar, Nikhil Biswas, and others who were masters of the Bengal Contemporary School of Art.

Fine lines Exhibits at Art and the Now. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The artists we are showcasing have their own style of work and are all well known in their fields. The purpose of this exhibition is to bring a bit Kolkata's vibrant art scene to Bangalore," says Renu, adding that over 40 works of art, including drawings, paintings and sculptures in varied media, are on display at this show.

Over the years, SCA has nurtured some of the best talent in the region, with this exhibition being their 65th anniversary show, says Renu. "Every artist is different and completely original in their conceptual approach and temperament, making them deserving of individual attention."

Akhil Chandra Das, one of the participating artists in Art and the Now, has been a member of SCA since 2016.

"Some of the most distinguished artists in Kolkata have been members of SCA, and it is an honour to not only be inducted into their ranks, but also exhibit under them," says Akhil, who has won accolades and awards for his work, both in India and abroad.

A sculptor who prefers to work with bronze and cast his own moulds, Akhil is displaying four of his works at the exhibition in Bengaluru. The Kolkata-based artist says his pieces at the show – Durga, The Monk, Shelter and Mask, as well as the current series he is working on are inspired by everyday events and people, and he believes this makes them relatable to viewers.

On show at Art and the Now are watercolours, oil on canvas, abstracts and speculative work as well as sculptures in wood, ceramics and more. Some of the participating artists include Srikanta Paul, Ganesh Haloi, Rajen Mondal and Atin Basak among others.

Art and the Now is on at Gallery Time and Space till September 8. Entry free.

CITYBEATS

Teacher's special

SEPTEMBER 5
Khandani Rajdhani launches a special thali to honour teachers on the occasion of Teacher's Day. Teachers can enjoy the Khandani Rajdhani thali at an exclusive price of ₹499 plus GST. Every teacher who will dine at Khandani Rajdhani will receive a rose and a heartfelt thank-you note.
On at all Rajdhani outlets in the city, for lunch and dinner.
Call 9930091550/9538896103.

Binge on burgers

ONGOING
Beyondburg Inc. has launched its Burger of the Month Series. This edition, which is ongoing, offers you Oklahoma-style fried onion burger, and will be available till the end of September. The burger comes with ground meat and carmelised onions, served on a soft, toasted brioche bun and topped with pickles, mustard, cheese and hot sauce.
Available at Beyondburg Inc., Prestige Trade Tower, Palace Road.

Tribute to a maestro

SEPTEMBER 6
Indian Music Experience Museum presents a special event – *Mehfil-e-Sama'a Tribute Concert to Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan,* who with his power-packed performances was instrumental in bringing Qawwali global recognition. The event will feature Mehfil-e-Sama'a, a Delhi-based Sufi-Hindustani classical ensemble.
At Indian Music Experience Museum, IME Performance Theatre. Tickets on BookMyShow.

HYDRAA demolishing unauthorised structures constructed on a drain in Ramnagar area, Hyderabad, on August 30. G. RAMAKRISHNA

'Encroachments on all water bodies should be cleared'

P Sridhar
MAHABUBABAD

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed collectors of all districts in the State to evolve a foolproof system on the lines of the Hyderabad Disaster Response and Asset Protection Agency (HYDRAA) to remove all encroachments on lakes/tanks and drains to protect the water bodies and prevent flooding.

The Chief Minister issued directions to this effect during a meeting held in Mahabubabad Collectorate on Tuesday to review the situation arising out of heavy rains that battered Mahabubabad district for the past three days. He visited some of the rain/flood affected areas before holding the review meeting.

He said: "people in flood-affected areas in Khammam complained that rampant encroachment of *nalas*/canals by a former Minister during the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government was responsible for inundation of several colonies in the town in the impact of Sunday's heavy rainfall".

'Won't spare anyone'

"I have instructed the Khammam Collector to take appropriate action against those responsible for the encroachments. The government will not spare those who have encroached the lakes and *nalas*, however influential they are," he said.

The removal of encroachments on *nalas* in Ramnagar area in Hyderabad helped prevent inundation to a significant extent in the latest spell of rains, he noted.

The Collectors may appoint advocates and take permission from the courts to remove encroachments on lakes by following the due process of law, he said.

LDF MLA puts the onus on Pinarayi to act against ADGP

P.V. Anvar says he is not asking Kerala government to remove Ajith Kumar; says the government knows public mood and will do what is needed; denies any political intrigue behind his action

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Left Democratic Front (LDF) Independent legislator P.V. Anvar has put the onus on Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to act on the accusations of criminality, corruption, nepotism and illegal amassment of wealth he had raised in writing against Additional Director General of Police, Law and Order, M.R. Ajith Kumar.

On Tuesday, Mr. Anvar met Mr. Vijayan in person at the latter's office in the Secretariat.

Later, Mr. Anvar told reporters that it was not for him to demand the government to remove Mr. Kumar from his current post or pursue a particular course of action.

P. V. Anvar, MLA, leaves the Secretariat after meeting Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan in Thiruvananthapuram on Tuesday. S. MAHINSHA

He said the communist government gauged public mood accurately and would do what was needed.

Mr. Anvar declared the first phase of his mission to expose wrongdoers in the police complete. "Now it's for the Chief Minister to act," he said.

Notably, Mr. Anvar had blamed the political secretary to the Chief Minister P. Sasi, for "failing" Mr. Vijayan by ignoring red flags and cautionary reports about Mr. Kumar's "questionable conduct." He said he would submit his report to CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan.

Mr. Anvar denied any political intrigue behind his action. "I have only God behind me," he said. The MLA had stirred a spot recently by likening Mr. Kumar to underworld kingpin Dawood Ibrahim and seeking a gun licence for personal protection.

CPI(M) legislator U. Prathibha lauded Mr. Anvar's "courage" and warned that he was taking on a powerful group.

LDF Independent legislator K.T. Jaleel and CPI(M) fellow-traveller Karat Razak backed Mr. Anvar.

Siddique's bail to be heard on Sept. 12

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The anticipatory bail plea of actor Siddique will be considered by the Kerala High Court on September 12. The Single Judge of the court, who considered the plea, didn't allow the actor any interim protection from arrest.

The court sought the views of the State government on the petition of the actor on the day. The police had earlier booked a case against Siddique on charges of rape following a complaint from a junior woman actor.

Meanwhile, the fate of the anticipatory bail pleas of actors Mukesh and Edavela Babu and lawyer V.S. Chandrasekharan, who are facing the charges of rape and sexual misconduct will be known when the District and Sessions Court pronounces its order on September 5.

Actor Nivin Pauly booked in rape case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Actor Nivin Pauly was among six booked by Kerala Police on Tuesday for a variety of charges, including gang rape.

Mr. Pauly was named the sixth accused. Film producer A.K. Sunil is named the second accused in the case.

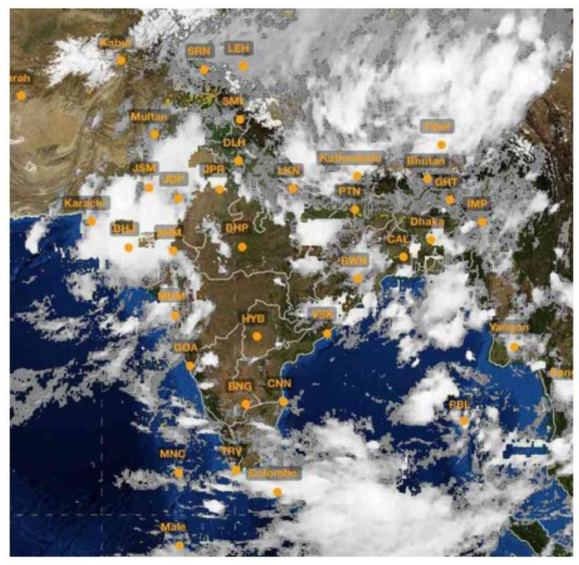
The survivor reportedly lodged a petition with the Special Investigation Team probing the sexual harassment allegations raised against the figures associated with the Malayalam film industry in the wake of the Hema Committee report.

The alleged offence took place in Dubai between November 1 and December 15, 2023.

Reportedly, the survivor was promised a caregiver's job in Europe and when it did not materialise, she was lured with an opportunity in the film industry.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5	32.6	26.0	Kozhikode	7	32.6	25.6
Ahmedabad	79	28.7	24.0	Kurnool	5	32.6	23.2
Aizawl	2	34.0	23.3	Lucknow	6	35.8	26.5
Allahabad	—	36.9	28.2	Madurai	—	38.1	26.4
Bengaluru	—	28.0	21.2	Mangaluru	—	29.7	23.6
Bhopal	11	31.3	24.3	Mumbai	21.9	31.7	25.5
Bhubaneswar	—	34.1	26.1	Mysuru	—	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	35.7	26.1	New Delhi	23	36.2	26.9
Chennai	30	33.3	26.0	Patna	—	36.4	29.5
Coimbatore	0.4	34.0	23.4	Port Blair	29.7	26.6	23.7
Dehradun	0.2	29.9	24.4	Puducherry	8.6	34.2	25.8
Gangtok	3	24.0	17.8	Pune	1	29.1	22.9
Goa	27	31.6	24.2	Raipur	—	33.3	25.6
Guwahati	—	34.0	26.8	Ranchi	4	30.5	23.0
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	16	27.1	17.5
Hyderabad	2.7	27.8	22.2	Shimla	4	25.6	19.2
Imphal	—	32.7	25.2	Srinagar	3	24.4	17.8
Jaipur	—	33.2	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	29	30.8	24.6
Kochi	8	30.4	24.4	Tiruchi	—	38.9	27.4
Kohima	25	27.5	17.0	Vijayawada	3	29.0	24.2
Kolkata	—	35.0	27.7	Visakhapatnam	—	32.2	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.37	..18	.25	36	47	.....
Bengaluru	...9	..—	.40	24	...123	.....
Chennai	.18	2	.31	74	62	.....
Delhi	.29	.59	179	42	89	.....
Hyderabad	...8	9	.44	45	67	.....
Kolkata	...6	..21	.63	24	49	.....
Lucknow	.11	7	.44	66	65	.....
Mumbai	...2	9	.33	52	70	.....
Pune	..—	..31	.44	31	53	.....
Visakhapatnam	.12	..42	.20	55	85	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Siwan, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 214 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sasaram, Bihar recorded a healthy AQI score of 18

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)]
Government of India
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL -1, BENGALURU,
No.4 Second Floor, LIC Jeevan Mangal Building, Residency Road, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560025

DRC NO.912/2019

Indian Overseas Bank, Bellary Branch Near Royal Circle, Ananthapur Road, Bellary - 583101. **.. Certificate Holder**

Versus

Sri B. Mareppa **.Certificate Debtor(s)**

DEMAND NOTICE

To

Sri B. Mareppa S/o Sri. Balagolla Pothappa, Proprietor: M/s. Ebenezer Plastic Nani Compound , ward No.35, Rajeshwarinagar, Havambavi, Bellary - 583101.

In View of the Recovery Certificate issued in OA No971/2017 passed by the Hon'ble Presiding officer, DRT, Bengaluru on 20-09-2019 an amount of **Rs.21,87.808/- (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Eighty Seven Thousand Eight Hundred Eight only)** is due against you along with interest and costs from date of filing of O.A.s till realization.

You are hereby called upon to deposit the above sum within 15 days of the receipt of the notice, failing which the recovery shall be made as per rules.

In additions to the sum aforesaid you will be liable to pay:

a) Such interest as is payable for the period commencing immediately after this notice of the execution proceedings.

b) All costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and other process that may be taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal, on this 9th day of October, 2019

Sd/- Recovery Officer
(DEEPAINDUVANI.S)
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL-1, Bengaluru

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 of the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 which is reproduced below: "Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Debts Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money. **2)** Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment".

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our client has negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from its owner, Mr. S. Amarnath alias S. A. Nath, aged about 54 years, S/o. Late Seetharam, residing at No. 1949, 21st A Main, 21st A Cross, HSR Layout, 2nd Sector, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru 560102, for valuable consideration. Mr. S. Amarnath has represented to our client that he has acquired the Schedule Property from his parents, under a Partition Deed dated 24th August 2001, registered as Document No. 5051/2001-2002 of Book-I, Volume No. 4997, Pages 243 – 256, with the Office of the Sub Registrar, Bengaluru South Taluk. Any person(s) claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the Schedule Property is called upon to lodge such claim with the undersigned, with supporting documents within 10 days from the date of this publication. In the event no claim(s) is received within the stipulated time, it shall be lawful for our clients to presume that there are no valid claim(s) adverse to Mr. S Amarnath's right, title and interest in the Schedule Property and proceed with the proposed sale transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing Sy. No. 54, (converted vide Official Memorandum dated 10th November 2008, in No. ALN.SR. 3/2008-09, issued by the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, Kolar) situated at Goravanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangarpete Taluk, Kolar District, measuring 6 Acres 25 Guntas and bounded on the East by Land in Sy. No. 53, West by Land in Sy. No. 43, North by Road, South by Land in Sy. No. 43 and 47.

A. Venkoba Rao,
AVR Associates, Advocates,
No. 34, 2nd Floor, 11th Cross,
2nd Main Road, Indiranagar I Stage,
Bengaluru-560038.

Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute
(An Autonomous institute of the Govt. of Uttar Pradesh)
C.G City, Sultanpur Road, Lucknow- (226002)
Website: https://cancerinstitute.edu.in, Email: jdmm.sscih@gmail.com

TENDER NOTICE

On-line offers are invited through GeM Bidding/ Bidding From Manufacturer/ Direct Importers/ Authorized distributors/ Dealers/ Accredited Agents for the supply and installation of equipments for various departments of the institute such as **Onco Emergency, Microbiology Department.**

The vendors are required to submit their offers on GeM portal only in two bids system i.e. Technical and financial Bid as per terms and conditions of bid document.

For detailed information like Name of Equipment, Date of Submission and opening of bid etc. You may please visit the GeM portal. The list of equipment will also be available on our website- **https://cancerinstitute.edu.in** for reference only. The offer will be accepted On-line only on GeM portal with terms and conditions as mentioned against each bid. The Director reserves the right to accept or reject any tender in part or full without assigning any reason thereof. In case any legal dispute; the legal jurisdiction shall be court of law at Lucknow (UP), India.

Advt. No. KSSSCI/PRO-03/2024-25 **DIRECTOR**

Government of Karnataka
Zilla Panchayat Bidar

No.ZPB/DRDA/NRLM/CR18/B/2020-21 Date:29-08-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT)

Karnataka State Mission Director Rural Livelihood Sanjeevini (NRLM) on behalf of KSRLPS Chief Executive Officers Zilla Panchayat Bidar (Standard Bid Document) as mentioned by the organizations registered under the Sanjeevini (NRLM) scheme for the year 2024-25.

E-tenders are invited from eligible HR organizations. For more details, terms and conditions of the said institutions, contact the undersigned office during office hours and visit the website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

01) E-tenders Starting Date : 03-09-2024, 02) Last Date of Submission of Filled tender : 14-09-2024 Upto 05:30PM, 03) Technical bid Opening Date : 17/09/2024 04) Financial Bid Opening Date : 20-09-2024

Sd/- Chief executive officer
Zilla Panchayath Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/141/KSMC&A/2024-25

FORM NO. 14 [See Regulation 33(2)]
OFFICE OF THE RECOVERY OFFICER -I/II
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, BANGALORE (DRT 2)
Government of India, Ministry of Finance
Department of Financial Services, Debts Recovery Tribunal-II Karnataka (Bengaluru) 4th Floor, Telephone House, Raj Bhavan Road, Bengaluru, Pincode- 560001

DEMAND NOTICE

NOTICE UNDER SECTIONS 25 TO 28 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS & BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993 AND RULE 2 OF SECOND SCHEDULE TO THE INCOME TAX ACT, 1961
RC 151/2024 IN OA NO.1767/2020

Indian Overseas Bank,
Versus
Smt. N. Sujatha and Another

To

(CH) Indian Overseas Bank, Yadavagiri Branch, No.45Vivekananda Road Yadavagiri Mysore - 570020 Karnataka .. Certificate Holder

Vs

(CD1) Smt. N. Sujatha D/o Late Narayana Rao R/at 203, 2nd Floor, IRI apartment Yadavagiri, Mysore - 570020 Karnataka Also at: Smt. N. Sujatha D/o Late K. Narayana Rao, R/at No.56-A Seegavadi kulagana post Gundlupet Taluk Chamarajanagar - 571109 Karnataka

(CD2) C Upendra S/o Late Channegowda C Flat no.202 No.30 5th MainJayalaxmipuram, Mysore, Karnataka ... Certificate Debtors

This is to notify that as per the Recovery Certificate issued in pursuance of orders passed by the Presiding Officer, **DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL BANGALORE (DRT 2) in OA/1767/2020** an amount of **Rs. 40,48,226.19 (Rupees Forty Lakhs Forty Eight Thousand Two hundred Twenty Six and paisa Nineteen only)** along with pendentellite and future interest payable as per the RC w.e.f. 06-08-2020 till realization and costs of **Rs.43,255/- (Forty Three Thousand Two Hundred and Fifty Five only)** has become due against you jointly and severally, Plus, penal interest @2% p.a. is also applicable / payable.

2. You are hereby directed to pay the above sum within 15 days of the receipts of the notice, failing which he recovery shall be made in accordance with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and Rules there under.

3. You are hereby orderded to declare on an affidavit the particulars of yours assets on or before the next date of hearing .

4. You are hereby orderded to appear before the undersigned on**28-08-2024** at 10:30 a.m. for further proceedings.

5. In addition to the sum aforesaid, You will also be liable to pay:

(a) Such Interests as is payable for the period commencing mediately after this notice of the certificate / execution proceedings.

(b) All Costs, charges and expenses incurred in respect of the service of this notice and warrants and other processes and all other proceedings taken for recovering the amount due.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Tribunal, on this date: 15-04-2024

Note: Attention is invited to Rule 16 to the Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 read with Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 (Amended from time to time) which is reproduced as under: "Rule 16(1) where a notice has been served on a defaulter under Rule 2, the defaulter or his representative or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the debts recovery officer or shall be any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

2. Where an attachment has been made under this schedule any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter or any debt, divided or other monies contrary to such attachment, shall be void, as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

3. You are also liable to disclose your assets both movable and immovable to this Tribunal along with the Income Tax Returns of last 5 years.

Recovery Officer
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Bangalore (DRT 2)

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex, Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road, DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/Mother Diary-T-fit/1911/2024-25 **Date: 03-09-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd Call)
[Two cover System] [Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers /contractors who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty	EMD in Rs.	Period of completion
1	Design, Supply and Installation of T-fit Insulations for chilled water and milk/product pipe line at Milk processing and packing section at Mother Dairy, Yelahanka	1 Job	50,000	3 Months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 04-09-2024 to 11-09-2024 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 11-09-2024 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 12-09-2024 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Co-Op. Milk Federation Ltd.,
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

FORM NO.22 (See Regulation 37(1)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - MINISTRY OF FINANCE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES
DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL - 2, BENGALURU
Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001

E-AUCTION SALE
PROCLAMATION OF SALE

(Issued under Rule 52(2) of Second Schedule to the Income Tact Act,1961 read with the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act,1993 (as amended from time to time)
TRC No.2422/2017 in T.A No.1318/2017 (OA No.560/14)

Between:
Indian Overseas Bank, Hassan Branch **...Certificate Holder**
Vs
Mr. K.N.Mohan & Another **...Certificate Debtors**

The under mentioned property will be sold by "Online electronic bidding" through the website **www.foreclosureindia.com on 23.10.2024 between 11.00 am to 12.30 pm** for recovery of an amount of **Rs.1,47,10,097/- (Rupees One crore forty seven lakhs ten thousand and ninety seven only)** as on 31.07.2024 excluding costs, expenses incurred/ to be incurred in the recovery proceeding with further interest payable till realization as per **Recovery Certificate TRC No.2422/2017 in T.A No.1318/2017 (OA No.560/14).**

Date and Time of Auction	**23.10.2024 between 11.00 AM and 12.30 PM**
Reserve Price	**Rs.90,00,000/- (Rupees Ninety lakhs only)**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs.9,00,000/- (Rupees Nine lakhs only)**
Last date and Time for Bids/Tender submission	**18.10.2024 by 04.00 PM**
Last date and Time for Hard Copy of Auction tender submission	**21.10.2024 by 04.00 PM**
Bid Increment Amount	**Rs.2,00,000/- (Rupees two lakhs only)**

Schedule of Property: All that piece and parcel of Coffee plantation bearing Survey No. 107/P22 of Baiduvalli Village measured 5 acres; having Annual Assessment of Rs.41.75, Khatha No.188, with all rights etc. absolute and **bounded on the East by:** Road, **West by:** Government Property, **North by:** Uttamchand Coffee Estate, **South by:** land in Sy.No.139.

For Terms and Conditions of sale: Detailed Terms and Conditions of online auction sale are available in website (**www.foreclosureindia.com**) or for any other assistance email to **(info@bankauctions.in). Contact Person: Mr.Jayaprakash Reddy, Ph: 8142000809, 8142000066.**

For further details contact: **Mr. Parameshwar Mahanna, Chief Manager** or **Mr. A.Rangaraj, Senior Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Regional Office, No.10/1, 3rd Floor, Lakshminarayan Complex, Palace Road, Bengaluru-560052 (Contact Mobile No.9677825326 (Mr. A.Rangaraj) 8826533471 (Mr. Parameshwar Mahanna) Land line 080-22950179 e-mail id: iob2666@iob.in**

Given under my hand and seal on this **28th day of August 2024.**

Date: 28.08.2024 **Sd/- Recovery Officer-2**
Place: Bangalore **DRT-2, Bengaluru**

PUBLIC NOTICE

BE KNOWN TO ALL that our client **Mr. HASRATH HAJI ILYAS JALYAWALA,** S/o Sri. Haji Ilyas Kader Jalyawala, Aged about 42 years, residing at no.08, Jameela Manzil, 5th Main Road, Subedarpalya, Yeswanthpur, Bangalore North Yeshwanthpura, Bangalore-560022 intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned below from **Mrs. KEMPAMMA,** W/o Late Sri. Boraiah M, Aged about 59 years, Residing at no.07, T. Narasipura Taluk, VTC: Hunasaghalli, PO: Seehalli, Sub District : Tirumakudalu Narasipura, Mysore District -571101 for a valuable Sale Consideration. If any person entity has any claim/objection in the matter of the intended sale of the said properties or any part, thereof, such a person submit his/her/their claim/objection with documentary proof thereof to the undersigned in writing within **Fifteen (15) days** from the date of this notice, failing which it would be presumed that there is no claims/objections and our client shall proceed with the purchase of the said properties from the owner.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing BBMP Katha no.38/1-1, PID no.3-136-38/1-1, situated at **1st 'E' Main Road, Gokula, I Stage, IV Phase, (previously being property bearing Sy no.9/2 situated at Yeshwanthpura Village)**, within the revenue jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, in New ward no.37, old ward no.3, (Yeshwanthpura), Bangalore admeasuring East to West **42 feet** and North to South **30 feet** in all measuring **1260 square feet,** together with 500 square feet AC sheet roofed house with all civic amenities, The property is bounded as follows :

On the East by : Property of Sri.Govindaraju West by : Road, North by : Property of Sri.Abbaiah, South by : Property no.36

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Contact : 9740718436

कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी।
अति अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना संख्या–RDD/SD/KHUNTI/03/2024-25

1.कार्य की विस्तृत विवरणी:

क्र० सं०	कार्य का नाम	प्राक्कलित राशि	अग्रधन की राशि	परिमाण विपत्र का मूल्य	कार्य पूर्ण करने की अवधि
1	खूँटी जिला के मुरहू प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत घाघरा से हेसेल जाने वाले पथ में करंजुवी के पास बनई नदी में उच्चस्तरीय पुल निर्माण।	3,31,07,400/–	6,62,200/–	10,000/–	18 माह
2	खूँटी जिला के कर्रा प्रखण्ड अन्तर्गत पंचायत जुरदाग में तेतरटोली नाला पर पुल निर्माण।	2,58,75,900/–	5,17,600/–	10,000/–	18 माह

2. वेबसाइट में निविदा प्रकाशन की तिथि – 04.09.2024
3. ई–निविदा प्राप्ति की तिथि एवं समय–दिनांक 05.09.2024 से दिनांक 11.09.2024 को अपराह्न 5:00 बजे तक
4. ई–निविदा खोलने का स्थान – कार्यपालक अभियंता का कार्यालय, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमण्डल, खूँटी
5. ई–निविदा खोलने की तिथि एवं समय –13.09.2024 अपराह्न 3:00 बजे
6. ई–निविदा आमंत्रित करने वाले पदाधिकारी का नाम एवं पता :– कार्यपालक अभियंता, ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल, खूँटी।
7. ई–निविदा प्रकोष्ठ का दूरभाष सं० – 6201188328 (संबंधित कार्यपालक अभियंता का दूरभाष नम्बर)
8. परिमाण विपत्र की राशि घट–बढ़ सकती है तद्नुसार अग्रधन की राशि देय होगी।
9. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि केवल Online Mode द्वारा स्वीकार्य होगी।
10. निविदा शुल्क एवं अग्रधन की राशि का ई–भुगतान जिस खाता से किया जायेगा, उसी खाते में अग्रधन की राशि वापस होगी। अगर खाता को बंद कर दिया जाता है तो उसकी सारी जवाबदेही आपकी होगी।

विस्तृत जानकारी के लिये वेबसाईट www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in एवं कार्यालय की सूचना पट्ट पर देखा जा सकता है।

कार्यपालक अभियंता
ग्रामीण विकास विशेष प्रमंडल,खूँटी।

PR 334627 Rural Development(24-25)D

Demolition squad

Courts cannot be oblivious to the communal symbolism of the bulldozer

In raising questions about the legality of the demolition of houses belonging to alleged offenders, the Supreme Court of India has articulated a valid and widespread concern about the use of the bulldozer as a form of retribution. The targeted demolition of Muslim houses has become part of the governance model in BJP-ruled States and if the Court can end the impunity with which these extra-legal measures are used by those in power, it would be a wholesome intervention. As Justice B.R. Gavai, heading a Division Bench with Justice K.V. Viswanathan, remarked, the law indeed does not permit anyone's home to be demolished just because they are accused in a case, and it cannot happen even in the case of a convict. The judiciary cannot be oblivious to the political symbolism that the bulldozer has acquired as an instrument of collective punishment inflicted on those the authorities label as rioters. There are instances of the houses of named suspects being demolished, without regard to the fact that the rest of the family may have nothing to do with the offence. However, considering that local laws do permit removal of encroachments and unauthorised constructions, the Bench has articulated its intention to lay down uniform guidelines on a pan-India basis to streamline the procedure for action against such structures. Observations by Justice Viswanathan indicate that these may involve the manner in which unauthorised structures are to be identified, notices issued to those concerned and a fair hearing given to them before any action.

It is here that the Court should tread carefully. The laying down of guidelines should not send out a message that the obvious correlation between incidents of communal violence, and the demolitions that follow them, can be blurred by administrative trickery. In many cases backdated eviction notices are produced to justify these demolitions, even as obvious gloating over the inhabitants' plight betrays the political and communal motive. The idea of digitalising eviction notices may address the problem of backdated notices, but it may not be possible to make the transition in all parts of the country. The real question that the Court should grapple with is whether the claim that only encroachments are being demolished is enough to justify the egregious violation of the rule of law and absence of due process in several recent instances in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi. It ought to be clear by now that the ruling party in these States seeks to gain political mileage by giving the impression that the regime is acting sternly against anti-social elements, even while thinly masking the blatantly communal action by passing it off as an anti-encroachment drive.

Hollow middle

The growing anti-establishment mood in Germany is worrisome

The regional elections in the eastern German States of Thuringia and Saxony – Brandenburg goes to the polls on September 22 – have captured attention because of the rise of the Alternative for Germany (AfD), the far-right party with neo-Nazi roots. The results underline an unmistakable trend in German politics – the AfD, despite earnest efforts by establishment parties to isolate it, is on the ascent. Classified as "extremist" by domestic intelligence, the AfD emerged as the largest vote-getter in Thuringia with 32.8% votes and finished second in Saxony, with 30.6% votes. Formed in 2013, it has built a base by constantly attacking the establishment and taking a hardline, nationalist approach towards immigration. The Reason and Justice Alliance, a leftist nationalist-populist upstart also known as the Sahra Wagenknecht Alliance (BSW), emerged as a dark horse with 15.8% vote in Thuringia and 11.8% in Saxony. The party, which opposed Germany's continued military assistance for Ukraine and campaigned for better social protection for workers and tougher laws to control immigration, finished third. The strong showing of the AfD and the BSW points to growing anti-establishment sentiment. While Chancellor Olaf Scholz's Socialists finished fifth in Thuringia with 6.1% vote and fourth in Saxony with 7.3% votes, his coalition partners, the Greens and the pro-market Free Democratic Party, fared worse. The conservative Christian Democrats was the only establishment party that did well.

Despite the Thuringia result, the AfD is unlikely to form the government as no party is willing to join a coalition led by it. But this strategy might face challenges. The AfD's rise has already pushed Germany's polity towards the Right, with even the Socialists taking a tougher line on immigration. Now with the largest vote share in Thuringia, the AfD will play a critical role in the statehouse as a powerful bloc even if it is kept out of government. And, if it continues to grow in popularity (it is expected to finish first in Brandenburg), even the policy of political untouchability will come under stress. To check the rise of the right-wing extremists, the establishment parties, especially Mr. Scholz's unpopular coalition, should be mindful of popular sentiments, angst and demands. The war in Ukraine and its impact on the German economy, which fell into a recession last year, are taking a toll on Germany. Berlin should work toward ending the war, tackling economic challenges and addressing working class concerns. Unless the underlying conditions that the far right exploits are addressed, mere political untouchability might not help in stalling the far-right's rise in Germany, where memories of the Nazi violence are still fresh.

A discourse on AI governance that India must shape

Sukanya Thapliyal

AI policy expert with the Koan Advisory Group, New Delhi

The Summit of the Future (September 22-23 2024) will be a decisive moment for global diplomacy and the international norm-building process in the sphere of Artificial Intelligence (AI). At the summit, world leaders and stakeholders are to come together under the aegis of the United Nations to advance the Global Digital Compact (GDC). The GDC aims to build a collaborative multi-stakeholder framework that strives to address the digital divide, advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and create a secure and inclusive digital environment. Crucially, it seeks to strengthen the international governance of emerging technologies, including AI, to ensure that they align with fundamental rights and values. As digital technologies continue to shape our societal and geopolitical landscape, it is imperative for India to not only to engage with but also actively shape the international discourse on the international governance of AI.

Geopolitical contestation

Parallel to the GDC, the UN General Assembly recently adopted two key resolutions on AI led by the United States and China. The U.S.-led resolution, on 'Safe, Secure and Trustworthy AI for Sustainable Development', advocates a harmonised approach to AI governance and encourages member countries to develop shared ethical principles, data protection measures and transparency standards. By promoting a harmonised approach to AI governance, the U.S. aims to assert dominance in AI technology and dictate the terms of its development worldwide. On the other hand, the China-led resolution, on 'Enhancing Cooperation on Capacity Building of AI', focuses on equitable benefits from AI development, bridging the digital divide, and promoting an open and non-discriminatory business environment. The resolution not only prioritises inclusivity and equitable development but also strategically positions China as an important player in global trade and technology standards. These resolutions are deeply intertwined with each country's interests and highlight growing geopolitical contestation in the domain of digital governance.

The UN is quickly emerging as the apex forum for shaping and harmonising global standards on AI – something not entirely unexpected given the impact of AI on markets and societies. The UN offers an inclusive platform to articulate challenges, reconcile diverse national interests and promote international cooperation mechanisms. India has an active and long-standing engagement at the UN and strategic engagements at the G-20 and Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI). India can, therefore, seize the opportunity to ensure that the GDC aligns with its developmental priorities and ethical standards, bridges the global digital divide, and meaningfully commits to the interests of the Global South.

> The U.S. and China are driving the AI governance discourse to advance their strategic interests, which could isolate the Global South

India has a deep historical legacy and influence at the UN, even as it has championed the issues of the Global South. This is most evident from its engagement in international climate negotiations where it has consistently advocated the principle of equity and climate justice as the basis of global climate action. India positioned itself as a key player in climate negotiations following the UNGA Resolution 44/207 in 1989 and contributed to integrating the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR), which acknowledged that developed countries bore the primary responsibility for climate change. India led significant efforts to shape the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol, ensuring that developing countries like itself are not subjected to obligations not aligned with their developmental plans and priorities; it emphasised the need for technology transfer and financial support from developed countries.

India's diplomatic weight

India also played a pivotal role in forming coalitions of developing countries to ensure that their perspectives are adequately represented throughout negotiations. India created the Green Group alliance comprising 72 like-minded developing countries at the first Conference of Parties under the UNFCCC to counter demands from the developed countries to have stringent commitments on developing countries. India also worked closely with Brazil, South Africa and China to form the BASIC Group to safeguard its developmental and poverty reduction objectives in the 2000s. India continues this trend of active participation – evident in the Paris Agreement and reaffirmed at the Dubai Summit – where it advocated fair terms and obligations that consider the varied capabilities and needs of developing countries.

India's history of leading Global South negotiations, along with the unique challenges it faces, positions it as an important contender in debates around AI. As a Global South country, India grapples with structural inequalities in the AI innovation landscape. This includes a lack of advanced computing infrastructure, high-quality data sets, and capital. Just as India advocated differential needs and responsibilities in climate agreements, it must now ensure that discussions around AI governance include considerations of equity, accessibility and fairness.

India has succeeded in registering these considerations at other international fora as seen in the G-20 New Delhi Leaders Declaration and the GPAI Ministerial Declaration. Under India's leadership, the G-20 and the GPAI have underscored the importance of fair access to critical AI resources, emphasised equitable sharing of AI benefits, and mitigated risks while fostering international cooperation. It is crucial to voice these concerns to the UN. The UN has unique legitimacy as an organisation with universal membership and a well-established framework grounded in the rule of law, a Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR), and SDGs that offer clear pathways to accountability. India is adept at building coalitions and advancing first principles that prioritise the interests of the Global South. By leveraging the UN platform, India can amplify its existing efforts on a wider scale, ensuring that the voices of developing countries are heard.

India should push for more equitable access to AI technology, building technical capacity, and creating institutional mechanisms for knowledge sharing to ensure that all countries can harness the benefits of AI. India can use this opportunity to redefine the multi-stakeholder model to be more inclusive – one that actively includes voices from the Global South, particularly those from marginalised and under-represented groups. This includes creating a platform accessible to smaller non-governmental organisations, small and medium enterprises, and groups that otherwise lack the resources to participate in global discussions.

In addition, India should also advocate a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to AI governance that respects human rights, aligns with existing international laws and standards, and ensures that AI systems are designed to be inclusive, fair and representative of diverse global perspectives.

Address the challenges

India's advocacy for a fair and inclusive AI governance framework is also crucial in the context of bipolar dynamics between the U.S. and China, where both countries are driving the AI governance discourse to advance their strategic interests. This risks sidelining the unique needs and perspectives of the Global South. The wide gaps between developed and developing countries are starkly evident in the realm of AI advancements. While developed countries have readily available resources, developing countries lack even the basic infrastructure, Internet access, and electricity – absolute essentials for AI advancements. Addressing these challenges requires a localised understanding and approach, which might be overlooked or simplified by those unfamiliar with these specific contexts. This can result in policies and frameworks that fail to address the root issues faced by developing countries, limit the effectiveness of global AI governance initiatives, and exacerbate existing inequalities.

India's historical legacy of advocating the interests of the Global South, robust engagement at international fora, and lived experiences as a Global South country make it well-positioned to lead these conversations. Its active engagement will not only advance its interests but will also contribute towards a balanced and sustainable digital future.

The views expressed are personal

Take on the challenge of rising income inequality

Sam Pitroda

telecom technocrat with 60 years of experience, an inventor, policymaker and global thinker

Addressing income inequality is a serious global challenge. It is a complex and multifaceted endeavour which demands examining, trying and implementing several different strategies to find a suitable way to foster a more equitable society. Here are some key areas to act on.

First, progressive taxation. Progressive tax policies are required to redistribute wealth from the affluent to the marginalised. It is not about stealing from the rich to pay the poor. It is about using tax money to improve health, education, skill development, the environment, and facilitate job creation.

Second, education and skill development. Access to quality education, skill development and lifelong learning is critical to enhance employability and increase earning.

Third, fair labour laws. Enforcing labour rights, minimum wages, safety, security, eliminating child labour, protection against exploitation, and collective bargaining are essential to ensure that all workers benefit from economic growth.

Fourth, investment in infrastructure. This will reduce regional disparities, assure inclusion and sustainability. It is critical to invest in infrastructure that is related to the environment, water, sanitation, forests, energy, climate change, housing, and transportation.

Fifth, the contribution of the super rich. Bill Gates and Warren Buffet began a global campaign called the 'Giving Pledge' for the super rich to donate more than half their wealth in order to benefit the public.

As of 2023, more than 235 super rich people in 28 countries have committed $600 billion for public good. In many advanced countries there is a special inheritance tax (Japan 55%, South Korea 50%, France 45%, and the United States 40%) before transferring wealth to the next generation. However, it applies only to the super rich and large asset transfers. This tax has been proposed by several people in the past in India. The World Inequality Lab says that in India, the share of the top 1% in the national income is among the highest in the world, and that India is today more unequal as a society than it was under British rule. Is this acceptable?

> There must be a realisation that the new economics is all about moving from 'economies of scope and scale' to 'economy of purpose'

About inclusion and equity

This is not a debate about increasing or introducing new tax for the middle class, the rich or the super rich. It is about locating the resources needed to lift millions more out of poverty and joblessness, and to do this in ways that encourage value addition through production and efficiency, quality and consumption as well as inclusion, sustainability, dignity and justice. The need is for analysis and debate, not for inventing falsehoods to cause a scare. India has already lifted millions out of poverty. However, what it has done is simply not enough. More needs to be done with brave and bold initiatives that copycat solutions will not achieve. The new economics is all about moving from "economies of scope and scale" to "economy of purpose". And the purpose is inclusion, equity and sustainability to lift millions out of poverty. Discussions on fiscal and other measures should be understood within this context.

What are the strategies that India can pursue that can create resilience in these uncertain times? There is no silver bullet, and none is suggested. The need is for reflection and a policy framework that can ensure growth with justice and hope, by looking at and debating every possible option available through learning from global experience and drawing on India's creative and innovative abilities.

Some continue to see globalisation and market liberalisation as silver bullets rather than as strategies which demand capacities for vigilance and constant mid-course correction. Past turmoil in global markets, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the wars in Europe and West Asia remind us that globalisation extracts its own price.

To me, the Gandhian model of development with a focus on decentralisation, local needs, local talent, local resources, local production and "small is beautiful" makes huge sense in a hyper-connected world in order to ensure local employment and prosperity in India. Investment in small and medium-sized enterprises and local innovations is equally critical to network to scale for global markets. Unfortunately, banks prefer large loans to big companies as opposed to small loans to SMEs. This must change with digital technology for financial services. India has 800 districts with unique climate, natural resources, capabilities and talent to build 800 production centres for a variety of goods and services. It also means 800 digital platforms to network to build supply chain, logistics, markets and distribution centres.

Where the future lies

Future jobs even in the AI-dominated world will come from food, education, health services, tourism and manufacturing. In fact, young Indian talent is the workforce for the world. This issue is thus about assessing progress in terms of human and technology development and a new economic model based on decentralisation and digital platforms to network needs and change consumption patterns and behaviours. The future definitely lies in a new tech economic model to deliver on inclusion, basic human needs, decentralisation, conservation and non-violence. The future also lies in a change in lifestyle that values happiness from "sharing and caring" as opposed to a "vulgarity of conspicuous consumption".

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

'Bulldozer justice'

I write this letter as a former Union Minister for Law and Justice. The Supreme Court of India's intervention interdicting "bulldozer justice" is a welcome affirmation of the constitutional imperative of observing the legal due process in meting out justice. The apex court's reprimand must now be taken to its logical conclusion by ensuring a fool-proof mechanism for effective implementation of the guidelines against bulldozing proposed by the Court.

The point of principle underscored by the Court concerns the foundational value of the Republic — namely, that justice is to be dispensed according to the law and by observing legal processes.

The issue at hand is also about the proportionality of punishment in a given case. When a bulldozer is used to raze a residential dwelling, it amounts to denying to its occupants their right to shelter and dignity, declared by the Court as sacrosanct fundamental rights. Razing the property of persons as a form of retribution is unknown to civilised democracies committed to a civilised use of the state's police powers and answerable to constitutional discipline.

Ashwani Kumar,
New Delhi

Thinking judges

On the issue of judicial appointments (Opinion page, September 2), the controversy will exist, whether it is through the NJAC or collegium or any other mode. The best way to end it is on a lighter note. One of the senior-most judges of the Supreme Court complimented another judge by saying that he thinks on his feet. To which another senior-most judge, known for his brilliance, remarked that for some of the judges, thinking itself was a feat. This explains how inconclusive the debate on judicial appointments is.

N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

From Bharati to Karunanidhi

A.R. Venkatachalapathy

Author of 'Who Owns That Song?: The Battle for Subramania Bharati's Copyright'

To mark the birth centenary of former Chief Minister and Muthamil Arignar (Tamil scholar) M. Karunanidhi, the Tamil Nadu government has nationalised his entire literary output. Nationalisation is a curious practice of literary paternalism unique to Tamil Nadu. This means that Karunanidhi's works will no longer be under a copyright regime. They will be in the public domain, and anyone can publish or translate his works in any form. Literary works are governed by copyright laws. Copyright is a property right that vests in an author, and after their death, passes on to their legal heirs for 60 calendar years.

A unique practice

To most parts of the world, this is a novel – even unheard of – intervention by the state. But in Tamil Nadu, this practice is 75 years old. As it often happens in Tamil culture, this innovation too began with the great poet, Subramania Bharati. Following his death in indigent circumstances, his widow Chellamma Bharati made a distress sale of his copyright. Eventually, the broadcast rights passed on to A.V. Meiyappa Chettiar. That the work of a literary icon was now the private property of a mercenary filmmaker triggered an uproar. Following this, the then Madras government, in 1949, acquired Bharati's copyright and later released it for unrestricted public use. More than being an executive legal intervention to settle a copyright issue, this was actually a unique honour bestowed on Bharati. This was a distinction that M.K. Gandhi, B.R. Ambedkar, Jawaharlal Nehru, or Rabindranath Tagore did not have.

By the 1980s, similar copyright difficulties were encountered in relation to Bharati's premier follower, Bharathidasan. During his brief return to power in 1989-91, Karunanidhi nationalised Bharathidasan's works. But few would have imagined that this would lead to political one-upmanship. In 1994, when her Dravidian credentials were under attack, the then Chief Minister, Jayalalithaa, nationalised the writings of the DMK founder, C.N. Annadurai. In a glittering function, ₹75 lakh was handed over to his wife Rani Annadurai as compensation.

The floodgates were now open. A stream of writers was freed from copyright. The works of 179 writers have been nationalised by the government so far. Nearly ₹15 crore of public money has been disbursed to their legal heirs. What was originally conceived of as an honour for exceptional cultural figures has now been emptied of all significance. Today, the most knowledgeable literary historians may find it difficult to identify many of the 179 writers.

This practice has had worse implications as well. Given that the Tamil publishing industry is more or less a cottage enterprise, knowledge of copyright issues is at best rudimentary. In their zeal to act as patrons of art, successive governments have devoted little attention to various concomitant issues. For instance, in whom do the moral rights of nationalised authors vest? In acquiring copyright, the government has invariably compensated legal heirs, i.e., family, rather than the work's legal owners. Publishers who acquired the right through due legal process have often been put to loss. In some cases, the government nationalised authors, such as the first Tamil novelist, S. Vedanayakam Pillai, and the Tamil scholar, V.G. Suryanarayana Sastri, decades after the copyright had legally lapsed. To add to the confusion, the works of authors such as Rajam Krishnan were added to the list when they were still alive. This presents a bizarre legal conundrum: can copyright be given away even before the composition of a work?

Further, there has been no consistency in awarding monetary compensation. Termed 'solatium', it has a strong whiff of patronisation. These days, whenever a writer dies, there is a clamour to nationalise their works. Their families queue up at Fort St George, the seat of power, expecting a largesse. Vested interests have often tried to influence the government's decision. At least in three cases – Kannadasan, Mu. Varadarajan and Sundara Ramaswamy – the government announced nationalisation without obtaining prior consent from the families and had to rescind its decision following their objections.

Effects on publishing industry

No doubt, nationalisation has democratised literature and aided genuine scholarly work. But its deleterious effects far outstrip its benefits. The huge pile up of Kalki's Ponniyin Selvan at book fairs does not make for a pretty sight. Predatory publishers have exploited the situation without any moral qualms. They have preyed on the huge volume of books released from copyright and dumped them on state-funded public libraries through unscrupulous methods. The works of well-known authors and even classics have been pillaged, their titles ravaged, and authorship changed. The situation has reached such alarming proportions that the Madras High Court has ordered an enquiry. The many problems unleashed by the well-intentioned moves of the government cry for urgent resolution.

In nationalising the works of Karunanidhi, the process that began with Bharati has reached its zenith. M.K. Stalin has discharged his duty twofold: as Chief Minister, he has put a celebrated writer's works in the public domain; and as a son, he has waived compensation for giving up the copyright. From Bharati to Karunanidhi, the story of the Tamil Nadu government's intervention in literary copyright is complete. It is now time to declare a moratorium on the nationalisation of literary works. Other ways to patronise literature and support indigent writers can easily be devised.

Nationalisation of literary works, originally conceived of as an honour for exceptional cultural figures, has now been emptied of all significance

The Backward Classes quota promise

The government would do well to ensure that local body polls are conducted soon

STATE OF PLAY

R. Ravikanth Reddy
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The Congress, which has been in power for nine months in Telangana, faces the challenging task of keeping its promise of providing 42% reservations to the Backward Classes in local body elections.

Since February 2, special officers have been performing the functions of the 12,700-odd gram panchayats in Telangana after the tenure of the sarpanches expired. The tenure of members of the Zilla Parishad Territorial Council and Mandal Parishad Territorial Council also ended in July. This means that there is no local governance in rural areas.

Due to the absence of elected representatives, the Central government's funds to villages and mandals have dried up. These villages and mandals have become ineligible for funds from the 15th Finance Commission, released to Panchayati Raj Institutions. About ₹2,000 crore is pending from the government.

Conducting polls to local bodies is not easy for the Revanth Reddy government as it has to fulfil its election promise, known as the Kamareddy Declaration, of providing 42% reservations to the Backward Classes, which comprises 130 groups. Of these, more than 100 groups are extremely backward economically, educationally, and politically.

To provide 42% reservation, the government will have to pass the 'triple test' legal challenge. This includes constituting a dedicated commission to examine the nature and implications of the community's backwardness in local bodies, specifying the share of reservation for the

Backward Classes based on empirical data, and ensuring that the quantum of reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes does not cross 50%. This seems impossible as of now.

The Supreme Court has directed the State government to set up a dedicated commission. In the absence of empirical data, the Court will not consider the government's demand. The commission is still to be established.

To gather empirical data, the Bihar government had conducted a caste survey, but it too did not form a dedicated commission. More than a month ago, the Supreme Court refused to stay the Patna High Court order setting aside the Bihar government's notifications to raise reservation in government jobs and educational institutions from 50% to 65% for Backward Classes.

The Backward Classes Commission in Telangana, headed by Krishnamohan Rao, suggested that the government adopt the present voters' list to arrive at the caste figures. The State Election Commission with the help of a few government departments can handle this easily. For the final report on caste figures and the social and economic condition of communities, the Commission prepared a comprehensive questionnaire and specified modalities to be adopted such as backwardness in social, economic, and other aspects. The draft is with the government.

Unlike the educational and employment reservations to Backward Classes which are broadly categorised into five segments, political reservations have to be much broader ensuring all the 130 caste groups and women are covered, according to the Kamareddy Declaration. This will take time and the government cannot wait that long for elections. The Commission is said to have suggested to the government to overcome the 'triple test' of the Court by fielding Backward Classes candidates from general seats and fulfilling its promise of 42% reservation in local bodies.

Even as political pressure is increasing from Backward Classes groups, the Commission's term expired a few days ago. This will likely further delay the process of enumerating castes scientifically.

Meanwhile, in the absence of local body representatives, governance has taken a hit. Without sarpanches, administrative duties are affected. The special officers who have been appointed in their place have little idea of the villages and their needs. Unlike the sarpanchs or ward members, they don't stay put in the villages as they have to manage two to four villages at a time. If this continues, this could lead to disillusionment and anger in the villages.

The Revanth Reddy government is hard-pressed to overcome these political, social, and governance challenges. The government would do well to ensure that elections are conducted soon instead of waiting for the term of municipalities to end in January 2025. The delay will only help the Opposition parties gain ground.

Over 80% Indians want a PM who shares their religious views

The share was much lower among economically advanced western and Asian nations

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

As many as 81% of Indian adults said it is important for their Prime Minister to have religious beliefs that are the same as their own, according to the results of a recent survey conducted by the Pew Research Centre (PEW). A similar share also said that it is important to have a Prime Minister who stood up for people who share their religious beliefs. PEW had conducted the survey across 35 countries between January and May 2024 among 53,000 respondents.

In general, the share of respondents who shared similar views was highest in certain South Asian, Southeast Asian, and African countries. It was lowest in North America and Europe. South America was in the middle. Even within Asia, the share of respondents who held similar views was much lower in economically advanced countries such as Japan, South Korea, and Singapore.

Chart 1 shows the share of adults who said it is very/somewhat important to have a leader of their country who has strong religious beliefs, even if those are different from their own. It is important to note that in this measure, the share of those who answered "yes, it's important/somewhat important" was not very low even among advanced western countries. For instance, in the U.S., close to half of the respondents (48%) said their President should have strong religious beliefs, even if those are different from their own. In Singapore, the corresponding figure was 45%.

However, when asked whether it was important for their leader to have beliefs that are the same as their own, as shown in **Chart 2,** there was a notable drop among respondents in western countries and economically stronger Asian countries who answered that it was "important/somewhat important". The share of respondents who said so in the U.S. was lower at 37%. In Singapore, the corresponding share was 36%.

Among countries that were relatively weaker economically in Southeast Asia and South Asia, such as India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and Thailand, the share of those who said it was important/somewhat important that their leader should have strong religious beliefs, even if those are different from their own, was much higher than the share in the west. Moreover, the share of those who said that their leader should have beliefs that are the same as their own was even higher. So, not only do Asians in countries that are relatively weaker economically want their leader to have religious beliefs, but a higher share of them want the leader to share their beliefs, which is in contrast to western nations.

When asked whether their leader should stand up for people with their religious beliefs **(Chart 3)**, the share of respondents who said it was important/somewhat important increased in western countries. About 64% of respondents in the U.S. said they want their leader to stand up for people who share their religious beliefs and 50% said the same in Singapore. The only outliers were France, Japan and South Korea, where less than 30% each shared similar views.

PEW also asked people who were not affiliated with any religion whether they want their leader to have religious beliefs that are the same as their own **(Chart 4).** Understandably, very few of them said that it was a "very/somewhat important" criteria. As the sample of such respondents in India was too low, they were not plotted.

PEW conducted the survey in India face-to-face among 3,559 people, across most States, except some in the Northeast and in some Union Territories.

The importance of religious beliefs

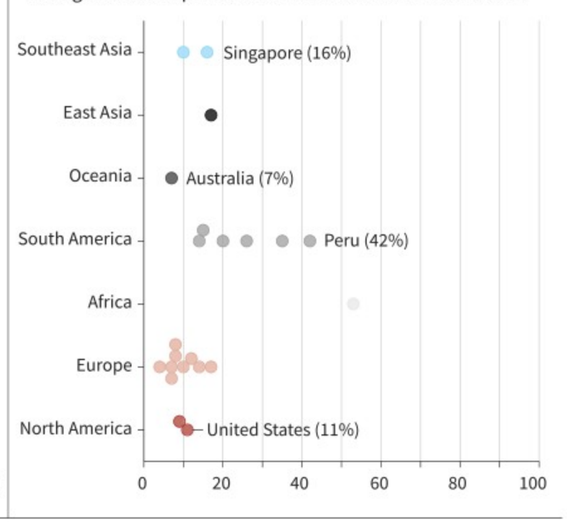
The data for the charts were sourced from the PEW Research Centre

Chart 1: The share of adults who said it is important for their country's leader to have strong religious beliefs, even if they are different from their own

Chart 2: The share of adults who said it is important that their country's leader shares their religious beliefs

Chart 3: The share of adults who said it is important for a leader to stand up for those with their beliefs

Chart 4: The share of religiously unaffiliated adults who thought it was important for a leader to share their beliefs



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1974

Khosla panel findings on Netaji's death

New Delhi, Sept. 2: Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose sustained third degree burns in the air crash in Formosa on August 18, 1945, and died the same night, according to the Khosla Commission report presented to Parliament to-day. The report says Bose was informed on August 12, 1945, that the war was about to end and the Japanese had decided to surrender to the Allied forces. He discussed his future plans with his colleagues. It was decided that Bose should leave Singapore and try to escape to Russia, where he hoped to find asylum. On August 16, Bose left Singapore, accompanied by Col. Habibur Rehman and others and arrived at Bangkok the same day and spent the night there. On the morning of August 17, they left by two planes for Saigon. The planes, in which Bose and his party travelled to Saigon, had to go back, and fresh arrangements had to be made for the next stage of the journey. Bose was informed that only two seats could be given to him in a Japanese bomber. He was very upset because he wanted to carry all the members of his party with him. Habibur Rehman accompanied Bose and the plane arrived at Touraine on the evening of August 17. It left Touraine the next morning reaching Taipei in the afternoon. The plane took off at 2-35 p.m. on August 18, but within a few seconds one of the engines flew out and the plane crashed near the fringe of Taihoku airfield. The body of the plane broke into parts and caught fire. The pilot was killed inside the plane. The rest of the crew and passengers came out but all of them had burn injuries. Bose received very severe injuries. They were carried to the army hospital nearby, where Bose died.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO SEPTEMBER 4, 1924

Assam tea gardens

The Secretary, Assam Congress Committee, wires under date Jorhat Sept. 1: 429 coolies from the Lakwa Tea Estate in the Sibsagar sub-division arrived at Dorhat after walking 65 miles on Friday the 29th August to meet the Deputy Commissioner of the district to lay their grievances against the garden authorities who induced them through their recruiters to come to the garden on misapprehension of prospects about 5.5 months ago but were disillusioned in the tea estates.

From Page One

Nine Maoists killed in Dantewada encounter

Last week too, security forces had gunned down three women Maoists in the conflict zone of Bastar, signalling the continuation of the anti-Maoist drive – started late last year – even into the conventionally slower monsoon season.

So far in 2024, 153 Naxalite bodies have been recovered, 669 arrested, and 656 Naxalites have surrendered, according to Sundarraj, the Inspector General of Police for the Bastar Range, who attributed the numbers to better coordination and strategy by the local district police force, DRG, and central paramilitary forces.

In a recent visit to Chhattisgarh, the State worst affected by left-wing extremism, Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that Naxalism would be eliminated by March 2026.

Bengal Bill moots capital punishment for rapists

The Bill garnered full support from the Opposition, with Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly Suvendu Adhikari calling for the immediate implementation of the Bill.

"Any well-meaning person will support it," she said, adding, "I had told the family of the deceased that we will hand over the case to the CBI (Central Bureau of Investigation) if the police were unable to crack it. Now the case is with CBI at the directions of the Calcutta High Court. We want justice from the CBI. The CBI should hang the culprits."

Ms. Banerjee said the Bill introduces three critical elements – increased punishment, speedy investigation, and rapid dispensation of justice.

The Bill specifically targets cases of sexual assault under the Bharatiya Nyaya Samhita (BNS) and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, she said. "We have increased the quantum of punishment in cases of sexual assault," Ms. Banerjee noted, outlining the Bill's core objectives.

With the Assembly's approval, the Aparajita Women and Child Bill, 2024 now awaits the Governor's assent, a final procedural step that will enable its implementation.

There were noisy scenes in the House when BJP legislators raised slogans demanding the Chief Minister's resignation over the gruesome crime even as the CM went ahead with her 40-minute speech. "We wanted the Centre to amend its existing laws and include stricter clauses to ensure exemplary punishment for perpetrators and quicker justice for victims. They showed no enthusiasm for it. That's why we made the move first. This Bill, once enacted, can serve as a model for the rest of the country," Ms. Banerjee said.

The State government will form a special 'Aparajita Task Force' from among the State police to ensure time-bound completion of the probe, Ms. Banerjee said, citing the provisions of the legislation.

Opposition MLAs who participated in the debate asked why the State government had opposed provisions of the BNS, when the new laws had stricter provisions for crimes against women.

4.15 lakh people in A.P. affected by flood

Agricultural crop loss was reported in 1,80,244 hectares in 20 districts. Horticultural crops in 15,109 hectares were reportedly affected by the flood.

Even as the rescue and relief operations were being done at a brisk pace, A.P. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu warned the officials and his Cabinet colleagues of stringent action for any dereliction of duty during the time of disaster.

Referring to the damage done to gate number 69 of Prakasam Barrage after some boats rammed into it, Mr. Naidu said he suspected "sabotage" and said an inquiry would be held.

Thousands of denizens, enduring one of the worst flood furies in the last several decades in Vijayawada, were seen moving out of their houses to safety as the flood water began to recede a little.

World Bank hikes India's economic growth projection to 7% for FY 2024-25

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The World Bank has forecast a growth of 7% for the Indian economy for the current fiscal year, upping its earlier estimate of 6.6%.

In its report, 'India Development Update: India's Trade Opportunities in a Changing Global Context', released on Tuesday, the World Bank said India's growth continued to be strong despite a challenging global environment.

The World Bank growth projection is in line with those of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and Asian Development Bank (ADB). Both institutions have raised their forecast to 7% for the financial year ending March 2025.

"The India Development Update [IDU] observes that India remained the fastest-growing major economy and grew at a rapid clip of 8.2% in FY 23/24. Growth was boosted by public infrastructure investment and an upswing in household investments in real estate," the World Bank said in a statement.

'Looted ammunition used for Manipur drone attack'

The drones could have been assembled locally, says govt. official; former Assam Rifles D-G says the People's Defence Force of Myanmar, which is in control of some border areas, may be selling arms

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The drones used to bomb two Meitei-dominated villages in Imphal West district in Manipur on September 1 were likely assembled locally and ammunition looted from police armouries were used in the attack, a government source told *The Hindu*.

The source said the "unprovoked offensive" from the drones was launched from the Kuki-Zo inhabited areas in the hills interlaced with mortar firing.

The source added that recently the security forces have been given clear instructions from the Union government to shoot anyone trying to cross the 'buffer zone' between the valley and hill areas to launch an attack.

"A large number of civilians in the valley and the hills have guns. Since armed people in the hills were finding it difficult to come close to the buffer zones as shoot-at-sight orders are in place, they used drones to drop the ammunition on Meitei villages. They are claiming that this was done to prevent a planned ambush by Meitei radical group Arambai Tenggol, which is uncorroborated," the source said.

On the ground: Manipur DGP Rajiv Singh visits violence-affected areas at Kadangband and Koutruk in Imphal on Tuesday. ANI

The Kuki Inpi, an apex body of the Kuki tribes, said it was a "calculated attempt to ambush Kuki-Zo civilians", which led to a heavy exchange of fire between Meitei groups and Kuki-Zo volunteers. Two persons, including a woman, were killed in the September 1 attack on Koutruk and Kadangband villages in Imphal West district, bordering Kuki-Zo dominated Kangpokpi district.

Director-General of Police Rajiv Singh visited Kadangband village on Tuesday where a local alleged that a Border Security Force (BSF) team deployed there "locked them" inside their camp and refused to fire in retaliation despite multiple pleas. A source in the BSF said that a platoon was deployed in the village to provide security to workers engaged in constructing barracks and they were not part of the regular troop deployment.

"The Central Reserve Police Force and Manipur Rifles are deployed there and they retaliated promptly," the BSF source said.

Rajkumar Imo Singh, a Bharatiya Janata Party MLA and son-in-law of Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh, on Monday questioned the role of Central forces who "are mostly present as mute spectators", adding that the deployment of 60,000 personnel in Manipur was not yielding peace and sought their withdrawal.

Former Assam Rifles Director-General Lt. Gen. Pradeep Chandran Nair (retd) said the use of drones against civilians was first noticed in August 2021 in Myanmar, in areas bordering Mizoram, not far from south Manipur. Assam Rifles is the primary border guarding force along Myanmar.

"Incidentally, as of now, except two pockets (Moreh and Ukhrul), all areas opposite Manipur border are in the control of People's Defence Force (PDF) and not the Myanmar military. They could be selling arms and even drones for money. Besides, insurgents belonging to many groups active in the Northeast, including Valley Based Insurgent Groups (banned Meitei group) and those of the Chin-Kuki ethnicity operate in Myanmar," Lt. Gen. Nair said.

Manipur government forms committee to probe drone attacks

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

N. Biren Singh

The Manipur government has formed a five-member committee comprising officers of the State police, Army and paramilitary forces to probe the recent drone attacks on villages in the Imphal West district.

The committee was formed on September 2, following two incidents of drone-assisted bombing in as many days, killing two persons and injuring 12 others, including a television journalist.

The panel, headed by ADGP Ashutosh Kumar Sinha, has a member each from the Army's 57 Mountain Division, the Assam Rifles, the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force.

The mandate for the committee is to "critically examine and study" the drones deployed by the extremists, including the "collection of all evidence, specifications of the drones used and how to effectively counter such drones".

Earlier on Tuesday, Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said using drones to drop bombs on civilians was an act of terrorism.

"Dropping of bombs on civilian population and security forces by using drones is an act of terrorism and I condemn such cowardly acts in the strongest terms. Manipur State government takes such unprovoked assault with utmost seriousness and will take up necessary response to fight such forms of terrorism," he said on X.

In June, *The Hindu* reported that extremist and radical groups on either side of the ethnic divide in Manipur were acquiring drones and spares to – as the security forces feared – add a new dimension to their conflict.

The Assam Police had conveyed the concern to their Manipur counterpart after seizing intelligent flight batteries and other drone parts from supply agents and associates of Manipur-based extremists belonging to both warring communities - the Kuki-Zo and the Meitei.

Why did retiral benefits to Buch vary in frequency and amount, Congress asks ICICI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Pawan Khera

The Congress on Tuesday sought to counter the statement issued by ICICI Bank that it had not paid any salary or granted ESOPs (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) chairperson Madhabi Buch after her retirement.

Addressing a follow-up press conference, Pawan Khera, who heads the party's media and publicity wing, asked why the "retiral benefit" was not uniform in terms of its frequency and amount.

On Monday, Mr. Khera had levelled charges of conflict-of-interest allegations against Ms. Buch, stating that she held an office of profit at the ICICI Bank and received income despite drawing a salary from the SEBI. Subsequently, the bank said it has not paid any salary or granted ESOPs to Ms. Buch after her retirement on October 31, 2013, as alleged by the Congress.

"Even if we were to assume that the ₹5.03 crore she received from ICICI in 2014-2015 – soon after her superannuation – was part of her retiral benefit and that she got nothing in 2015-2016, why did this so called retiral benefit resume in 2016-2017 and continue until 2021?" Mr. Khera asked.

"The average salary drawn by Ms. Madhabi P Buch from 2007 up until 2013-14 – right before her superannuation from ICICI – is ₹1.3 crore lakh per annum. However, the so-called retiral benefit given by ICICI to Madhabi Buch from 2016-17 to 2020-21 averages to around ₹2.77 crore per annum. How can a person's retiral benefit be more than her salary as an employee?" the Congress leader added.

He also questioned the bank's claim that employees, including retired employees, had the choice to exercise their ESOPs anytime up to a period of 10 years from the date of vesting.

The Congress leader asked if the bank had "revised" its policy for the SEBI chairperson.

AAP MLA used 'ill-gotten' gains from term in Waqf Board to buy property: ED

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

AAP MLA Amanatullah Khan being produced before a court by the ED officials, in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has claimed that the "ill-gotten" money generated during the tenure of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLA Amanatullah Khan as chairman of the Delhi Waqf Board (DWB) from 2016 to 2021 was used to purchase a property in southeast Delhi.

On Monday, the agency arrested Mr. Khan under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) in the case related to the alleged irregularities committed during his term of office as DWB chief. He is currently in the ED custody.

The probe is based on a First Information Report (FIR) filed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) about the alleged illegalities in the appointment of Group C and Group D employees in the Board; and another FIR instituted by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (Delhi) pertaining to alleged allotment of the tenancy of Board's properties without following proper procedures.

On October 9, 2023, and January 2, 2024, the agency had searched multiple locations to gather evidence in the case. It found that at Mr. Khan's instance, Zeeshan Haider and Daud Nasir allegedly managed the "ill-gotten" money generated during his term. On Tuesday, the ED said the funds were used to "make cash payments via Kausar Imam Siddiqui for the purchase of a property at 275-276, TTI Tikona Park, Okhla (Delhi) belonging to Jawed Imam Siddiqui".

The ED said that during its probe, 14 summonses were issued to Mr. Khan.

Centre to sign pact with two armed groups in Tripura

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government and the State of Tripura will sign an agreement with two insurgent groups on Wednesday, in the presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha and officials from the State and Union governments.

"In presence of Union Home Minister Amit Shah, a Memorandum of Settlement is to be signed among Government of India, government of Tripura and representatives of National Liberation Front of Tripura (NLFT) and All Tripura Tiger Force (ATTF), in New Delhi on September 4," the Home Ministry said in a statement.

Faridabad shooting was due to 'misunderstanding', say police

The Hindu Bureau
GURUGRAM

Father of the teen says his son was shot by those who thought he was a cow smuggler

Over a week after a teenager travelling in a car with his friends was chased and shot dead by a gang of five people in Faridabad, the Haryana Police on Tuesday claimed it was a case of mistaken identity with shots being fired due to a "misunderstanding".

The police said the background of the accused is being verified to find out whether they belonged to any cow protection group, but added that no evidence has emerged to back this theory. The victim's father, however, claimed that the main accused had confessed in police custody to shooting the teenager because he suspected him and his friends of being cow smugglers.

In the early hours of August 24, 19-year-old Aryan Mishra, a Class 12 student, had left his house in a car accompanied by friends, including two women. The accused, travelling in a sedan, tried to flag them down, but the teenager and his friends did not stop. The accused overtook them near a toll plaza in Palwal after a chase of around 25 km and fired shots at them. Mishra received gunshot injuries in the shoulder and the head, and was declared brought dead at a hospital.

The Faridabad Crime Branch later took over the case, and arrested five people: Anil, Krishan, Varun, Adesh, and Saurabh, all belonging to Faridabad.

At a press conference on Tuesday, Crime Branch ACP Aman Yadav claimed that the group of five mistook Mishra and his friends in the car as criminals. The police officer said that the accused and the victim did not know each other, and ruled out any conspiracy or personal enmity as motives in the case.

Asked whether the accused were cow vigilantes who mistook the victim and his friends for cow smugglers, Mr. Yadav said their background was being verified, but so far, there was no evidence to suggest that they were linked to any such organisation.

Cong. cautions govt. on anti-Adani stir in Kenya

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress general secretary (communications) Jairam Ramesh flagged the Adani Group's proposed takeover of the airport in Nairobi, Kenya, which is facing a pushback from a workers' union, and cautioned the Union government, saying that the anti-Adani protests could turn into an "anti-India" sentiment.

The Kenya Aviation Workers Union has called for a strike against the takeover. "This is a matter of grave concern because the non-biological PM's friendship with Mr. Adani is now globally well-known. The protests can therefore easily convert into anger against India," he said.

APPEAL

I, Aaradhana aged 2 years am advised to undergo Heart Surgery (Intra Cardiac Repair) at The Public Health Centre, Chennai. The total expenditure is Rs.1,25,000/-. My family is very poor and cannot afford this huge cost. Please help me to undergo the surgery and lead a healthy life. The donations sent through Ch/D.D/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLE PAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/C. No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT.

All correspondence is done through **WWS**, Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13. N.No.29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 28235324/7338978027. E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com**. Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

Aaradhana

Congress secretaries told to fight 'divisive politics' of the BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The top brass of the Congress party, including Mr. Kharge and Mr. Rahul, met the new appointees and sought feedback

The top brass of the Congress, including party president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, met the newly appointed All India Congress Committee (AICC) secretaries at the party headquarters on Tuesday.

Sources said the Congress leadership sought their feedback on strengthening the organisation and widening the party's support base.

In a post on social media platform X, Mr. Kharge said, "We chaired a meeting of the newly appointed All India Congress Committee secretaries and joint secretaries. We are determined to strengthen our organisation, involve each voice and keep speaking truth to power."

'Diverse team'

"This diverse team that has strong representation from marginalised sections of society, with its youthful exuberance and pan-India profile, will bring new fervour to our party functioning," Mr. Venugopal noted in a post on X.

"As Khargeji and Rahulji aptly pointed out in the meeting, our job has to be to fight against the Bharatiya Janata Party- Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh's divisive politics and work stridently to defend the Constitution. We are a force that works for social transformation, while the BJP represents social stagnation," he added.

Apart from the theme of social justice, loyalty has been rewarded in the organisational rejig, with former Mahila Congress chief Netta D'Souza and former chief of the National Students' Union of India Neeraj Kundan finding place in the list of 74 functionaries.

Congress, AAP start talks for Haryana poll alliance

Move is said to have been prompted by Rahul to ensure that votes against BJP are not divided; AAP sources claim they have demanded 10 seats, while Congress has offered seven seats so far

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Planning time: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi with party president Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

Amid finalising candidates for the coming elections to the 90-member Haryana Assembly, the Congress on Tuesday announced that it was talking to the Aam Admi Party (AAP) for an alliance in the State to ensure that votes against the BJP do not get divided.

AAP sources claimed that they have demanded 10 seats, while the Congress has offered seven so far. The Congress leaders were guarded about the progress of talks.

"The talks with Aam Aadmi Party regarding alliance is in a very preliminary stage. We are exploring it. If there is any further development in the next two or three days, we will let you know," All India Congress Committee (AICC) incharge for Haryana Deepak Babaria told pressperson.

However, AAP sources told *The Hindu* that two rounds of meetings have taken place between Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and Rajya Sabha member and AAP leader Raghav Chadha. Another round of talks is expected soon, they added.

Consolidating votes

The discussions are said to have started after Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, pushed for an alliance to consolidate votes against the BJP.

While the two parties had a tie-up for the Lok Sabha election, Haryana Congress leaders, including former Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda, had ruled out an alliance for the Assembly election.

In an interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Hooda had asserted that the Congress was "capable of defeating the BJP in Haryana".

The alliance talks come at a time when the party's Central Election Committee (CEC) is finalising the names of the Congress candidates. On Monday, the CEC had cleared 34 candidates, including 22 MLAs.

According to a source, the CEC is said to have cleared candidates for 66 seats by Tuesday.

However, sources said that the election panel was yet to take a call on fielding senior leaders like Lok Sabha MP Kumari Selja and Rajya Sabha MP Randeep Surjewala. Both leaders, known to be rivals of Mr. Hooda, have made public statements about their interest in returning to State politics.

Sources indicated that all the three leaders are likely to have a separate meeting on Thursday.

The party is also yet to announce its decision on fielding wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia in the election.

Asked if their names have been put on hold for review, Mr. Babaria said, "No their names are not there in that list of names. I think the status would be clear by Thursday".

INBRIEF

U.S. Ambassador calls on Congress president in Delhi

Eric Garcetti, U.S. Ambassador to India, made a courtesy call on Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Tuesday in New Delhi. He was accompanied by Minister-Counselor of Political Affairs, Graham Mayer and Chief of Staff, Lisa Brown. Mr. Garcetti's visit comes just ahead of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to the U.S. from September 8 to 10. In a post on X, Mr. Kharge said India and the U.S. enjoy a comprehensive global strategic partnership, driven by shared democratic values. He said that he was delighted to share his thoughts on boosting ties.

Will force BJP, RSS to conduct caste census, says Lalu Prasad

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) president Lalu Prasad on Tuesday said the Opposition will force the BJP and the RSS to conduct a caste census. His statement comes a day after the RSS said it had no objection to a caste census as long as it was undertaken for the welfare of downtrodden communities and not used for electoral gains. Taking to X on Tuesday, Mr. Prasad said, "We will work up the BJP and the RSS and get them to do the caste census. What authority do they have to not conduct the caste census?"

Jharkhand polls: Hemant calls on Rahul and Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Ahead of the Assembly election in Jharkhand, Chief Minister Hemant Soren, along with wife Kalpana Murmu Soren, on Tuesday met Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in New Delhi. Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal was also present.

Mr. Gandhi termed it a courtesy meeting, however, sources in the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha said discussions on the election, which is due later this year, also took place.

The meeting comes days after former Jharkhand Chief Minister Champai Soren joined the BJP alleging that he was humiliated and insulted by the JMM.

"Courtesy meeting with Mr. Hemant Soren and Ms. Kalpana Soren in the presence of Mr. Kharge. INDIA is united for the upliftment and rights of the people of Jharkhand, the poor and the tribals. We will win this election with a massive majority," Mr. Gandhi said in a Facebook post.

Mr. Hemant Soren too reiterated that it was a courtesy meeting.

'Decision on *Mahayuti*'s CM candidate will be taken later'

Maharashtra Deputy CM and Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) president says the primary objective of the alliance now is to come to power with a majority; he says his party will contest at least 60 seats in the upcoming Assembly polls; refraining from commenting on who will be fielded from Baramati, he says the party leadership will decide

INTERVIEW

Ajit Pawar

Abhinay Deshpande
BARAMATI

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and Nationalist Congress Party chief Ajit Pawar has exuded confidence that the new Chief Minister of the State will be from the *Mahayuti* alliance. During his visit to Baramati for an outreach campaign to promote various welfare schemes, he said the alliance's objective for now is to come to power with a majority and the decision on the Chief Minister will be taken later. Edited excerpts:

What is the 'Jan Sanman Yatra' about, and why is the campaign theme pink? This seems like a stark contrast to your usual image, as alleged by the Opposition leaders.

The primary purpose of this yatra is to express gratitude to the people of Maharashtra and inform them about or promote our newly launched schemes, particularly the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme, which provides financial assistance of ₹1,500 per month to women, and the free electricity initiative. Over 1.60 crore women are already benefiting from the financial assistance scheme, and the response has been overwhelming and we expect the total number of beneficiaries will cross two crores. As for the pink colour, why not? It's a colour that resonates with women, and this time, most of our schemes are women-centric. I have also changed my approach. Now, I have the responsibility of the party, which earlier rested with Pawar *saheb* (referring to his uncle and NCP patriarch Sharad Pawar). With increased responsibility, one's behaviour and working style naturally evolve.

Do you expect the 'Majhi Ladki Bahin' scheme to impact the upcoming Assembly polls? The Opposition claims that the scheme was announced because your alliance faced setbacks in the Lok Sabha election.

Governments introduce various schemes, and those that become popular

and effectively reach the intended beneficiaries are continued, while those that don't receive enough response are discontinued. This is how governance works.

Will you announce the Chief Minister candidate before the election?

No. Our primary objective is to bring the *Mahayuti* alliance to power with a majority, and we will decide on the Chief Minister later. But one thing is certain – the Chief Minister will be from *Mahayuti*.

You recently said that fielding your wife, now Rajya Sabha MP Sunetra Pawar, against your cousin Supriya Sule from Baramati was a mistake. What made you change your mind?

As you know, I speak from the heart. Recently, after the collapse of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj's statue in Sindhudurg, I apologised to the 13 crore people of Maharashtra, regardless of the reasons behind the incident. We will investigate and take action. He is our revered deity, and I apologised and moved forward. Similarly, I felt that fielding my wife in the Lok Sabha election wasn't the right decision, and I simply expressed my feelings.

Why have you decided to refrain from criticising Sharad Pawar?

It's not just about *saheb*; I have decided not to criticise anyone. Did I take any jabs at anyone today? No. Before the Lok Sabha polls, I spoke about the *abki baar 400 paar* narrative, which didn't sit well with people, especially among SC, ST, and minority communities. They assumed the government would change the Constitution and implement the CAA, as the Opposition campaigned. This created an undercurrent, and people voted for the other side. We were falling short in countering the narrative created by the Opposition.

Who will contest from the Baramati seat in the upcoming Assembly polls? You have mentioned that you are not interested after being elected seven times since 1991.

I have nothing to say about that. The party leadership will decide and announce the candidate.

You have mentioned that your party will contest 60 seats?

Not just 60. In the last election, our party won 54 constituencies, and six others were with us, making a total of 60.

So, we are definitely interested in contesting those 60 seats, and of course, we will seek more. *(For full interview visit bit.ly/ajitpawar)*

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, ELECTRICAL CIRCLE (R&B), NIRMAN SOUDHA, BHUBANESWAR
E-mail : seec.bbsr2010@gmail.com
Bid Identification No.S.E.E.C (R&B) 04/2024-25 No.2637 / Date 03.09.2024/
The Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar on behalf of the Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids for E.I. works which are to be received through online bidding, double cover system as detailed in : **https://tendersorissa.gov.in**. The details of bid documents will be available in the above website from **dt.06.09.2024 at 05.00 P.M. to dt.21.09.2024 up to 05.00 P.M**. The bidders must possess compatible Digital Signature Certificate of Class II or III. Bids received online shall be opened **dt.21.09.2024 at 05.30 P.M.** in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Electrical Circle (R&B) Odisha, Bhubaneswar. Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**.
Addendum / Corrigendum, if required, will be available only in the Website.
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TTD-40021(31)/1/2024-PRO SEC (Adv.No.129), Date:03-09-2024 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (Mahadevpura - Lakes), Room No. 306, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002
No.: EE/Mahadevpura-Lakes/TN-03/2024-25 Date: 03.09.2024
INVITATION TO TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)
Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the work mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Balance improvement works at Vengaiahna Kere. **Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs):** 317.67. **EMD (in Rupees):** 4,77,000/-, **Eligibility of Contractor:** General

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **06.09.2024. (2)** Pre bid meeting will be held on **10.09.2024** at **3:30 p.m.** in the Office of the Executive Engineer (MDP-Lakes), BBMP. **(3)** Tender must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **17.09.2024. (4)** Technical bids will be opened on the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** in the office of the Executive Engineer (MDP-Lakes), BBMP on **18.09.2024** at **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Executive Engineer (Mahadevpura-Lakes), BBMP

KERALA STATE TRANSPORT PROJECT
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)/Tender Notice
E-Procurement Notice (Item Rate Contract), following Two Envelope Bidding Process
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING
KfW Project No.43894 **Dated: 04/09/2024**
BMZ No. 201865286
1. The Government of India has received financing as German Financial Cooperation with India **Climate –Resilient Reconstruction after Flooding in Kerala** (Loan) from the **KfW** Bank towards the cost of rebuilding climate resilient infrastructures in Kerala and Government of Kerala (GoK) intends to apply a part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for construction of works as detailed below.
2. Bidding will be conducted through bidding procedures as per the KfW Bank & GoK guidelines. Bidding is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the KfW Bank's Guidelines for the Procurement of Consulting Services, Works, Goods, and Non-Consulting Services in Financial Cooperation with Partner Countries.
3. The Project Director, Kerala State Transport Project, Public Works Department, Government of Kerala, now invites online bids through admeasurement (Item Rate) mode of execution for the construction of works detailed below:

State	Bid No.	Name of work	Length Km	Estimate PAC	Completion Period	Maintenance Period
Kerala	KSTP II/RKI-Pkg III/Rd 9	Rehabilitation and Up gradation of Thrissur Kuttippuram Road in Thrissur District	33.243	Rs. 137.97 Cr.	09 Months	5 Years

4. The complete bid document may be viewed/downloaded from the e-procurement portal of Kerala Government **https://etenders.kerala.gov.in** from 03/09/2024 to 04/10/2024.
5. Bids received through any other mode shall not be entertained. However, EMD, tender fee, Power of Attorney, joint bidding agreement, etc. need to be submitted physically by the Bidder. Please note that the Authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any of the bids without assigning any reason whatsoever.
6. A pre-bid meeting will be held at the office of Project Director, Kerala State Transport Project (KSTP) to clarify the issues and to answer questions on any matter that may be raised at that stage as stated in ITB Clause 7 of 'Instructions to Bidders' of the bidding document. Bidders are advised to download the bidding document prior to the pre-bid meeting in order for bidders to have a good understanding of the scope of work under this contract for discussion and clarification at the pre-bid meeting.
7. The address for communication is as under:
Project Director, Kerala State Transport Project, Project Management Team, T.C.11/339, Sree Bala Building, Keston Road, Nanthancode, Kowdiar P.O., Thiruvananthapuram–695003, **e-mail: pdkstp@gmail.com, cepmtkstp@gmail.com**
Sd/- Project Director, KSTP

कार्यालय, चेयरमेन काउंसलिंग बोर्ड,
(यू.जी./पी.जी. आयुष काउंसलिंग बोर्ड, राजस्थान सरकार)
आयुष भवन, कमरा नं. 107-212-214, सेक्टर-26, प्रताप नगर, जयपुर 302033
Email-rajugpgayush@gmail.com

B.A.M.S./B.H.M.S./B.U.M.S./B.N.Y.S. पाठ्यक्रमों में सत्र 2024-25 में प्रवेश हेतु काउंसलिंग-रजिस्ट्रेशन की सूचना

राजस्थान राज्य के निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों/विश्वविद्यालयों में (i) **अखिल भारतीय कोटे** की 15 प्रतिशत सीटों एवं (ii) **राज्य-कोटे** की राजकीय एवं निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों/विश्वविद्यालयों की 85 प्रतिशत सीटों के लिए NEET – 2024 के पात्रताधारक अभ्यर्थियों से डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णन् राजस्थान आयुर्वेद विश्वविद्यालय जोधपुर से सम्बद्धता प्राप्त सभी राजकीय एवं निजी महाविद्यालयों तथा राजस्थान के समस्त निजी विश्वविद्यालयों के संघटक आयुष महाविद्यालयों में संचालित आयुष स्नातक पाठ्यक्रमों में सत्र 2024-25 में प्रवेश हेतु ऑन-लाईन रजिस्ट्रेशन-आवेदन दिनांक 03.09.2024 से 08.09.2024 तक आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं।

1. निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों में 15 प्रतिशत अखिल भारतीय कोटे की सीटों पर प्रवेश काउंसलिंग प्रक्रिया के प्रथम दो चरणों में, राज्य कोटे की काउंसलिंग के समानान्तर साथ-साथ में होगें, जिसके लिये राजस्थान सहित अन्य राज्यों के पात्र अभ्यर्थी भी इन प्रथम दो चरणों में रजिस्ट्रेशन हेतु ऑनलाईन आवेदन कर सकते हैं। इन दो प्रथम चरणों के लिए अन्य राज्यों के अभ्यर्थी अखिल भारतीय कोटे में केवल निजी आयुष महाविद्यालयों में ही प्रवेश हेतु ऑप्शन भर सकेंगे, जिनकों ऑवर ऑल मेरिट के आधार पर प्रवेश आवंटित किया जायेगा।
2. अखिल भारतीय कोटे की सीटें उक्त दो चरणों के पश्चात् खाली रह जाने की स्थिति में उन रिक्त रही सीटों को राज्य कोटे में सम्मिलित करके अगले चरण में पात्र अभ्यर्थियों को मेरिट के आधार पर प्रवेश दिये जायेंगे।
3. निजी महाविद्यालयों में NRI श्रेणी में प्रवेश के इच्छुक अभ्यर्थियों को प्रत्येक चरण में ऑनलाईन आवेदन प्रक्रिया में च्वॉईस फिलिंग विकल्प के अन्तर्गत NRI विकल्प का चयन करना अनिवार्य होगा।
4. आयुष पाठ्यक्रमों में केवल **BNYS** पाठ्यक्रम में **NEET-2024** पात्रता की अनिवार्यता नहीं है परन्तु प्रवेश में **NEET-2024** पात्रताधारकों को प्राथमिकता प्रदान की जाएगी।

रजिस्ट्रेशन, आवेदन शुल्क एवं अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी काउंसलिंग बोर्ड की वैबसाईट **www.rajugpgayushcounselling.in** पर उपलब्ध है, जिसका काउंसलिंग प्रक्रिया के विभिन्न चरणों हेतु नियमित रूप से अवलोकन करते रहें। **हेल्पलाईन नं. 0141-2950362, 9875816705।**

डॉ. बत्तीलाल बैरवा
चेयरमेन
DIPR/C/8114

INBRIEF

8 killed, 10 injured as truck hits stationary vehicle in Haryana

Eight people were killed and 10 were injured after a truck hit a stationary vehicle carrying devotees in Jind district of Haryana, the police said on Tuesday. The accident occurred past midnight when the devotees were travelling from Kurukshetra to a temple in Rajasthan. SHO of Sadar Narwana police station Kuldeep said, "The truck rammed the light commercial vehicle in which the group of devotees was travelling. Eight people, including two women and a boy, have died while 10 are injured," he told PTI. PTI

DCGI grants approval for eye drops to treat presbyopia

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has given its final approval for ENTOD Pharmaceuticals PresVu eye drops specifically developed to reduce dependency on reading glasses for individuals affected by presbyopia, a common age-related vision condition that typically impacts those over 40. The approval follows an earlier recommendation by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO).

Centre gives nod to defence proposals worth ₹1.44 lakh cr.

DAC grants approval for procurement of seven stealth frigates, future-ready combat vehicles to replace the main battle tanks, air defence fire control radars, Dornier aircraft, and patrol vessels

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), the preliminary step of the long procurement process, for 10 capital acquisition proposals amounting to ₹1,44,716 crore.

These include procurement of seven stealth frigates under Project-17B, future-ready combat vehicles (FRCV) for the Army as a replacement for the main battle tanks, air defence fire control radars (FCR), Dornier-228 aircraft, next-generation fast patrol and offshore patrol vessels.

Of the total cost of AoNs, 99% is from indigenous sources under Buy (Indian) and Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) categories of the defence acquisition procedure, the Ministry said.

The new acquisition will enhance the capability of the ICG to carry out surveillance, and patrolling of maritime zone. FILE PHOTO

"The FRCV will be a futuristic Main Battle Tank with superior mobility, all terrain ability, multi-layered protections, precision & lethal fires over and real-time situational awareness," the Ministry said in a statement.

There have been earlier attempts at the FRCV project which did not take off and was eventually scrapped. This is a long-drawn project to replace the large number of T-72 and T-90 main battle tanks with the Army.

Defence sources confirmed that the DAC has accorded AoN for construction of seven advanced stealth frigates under Project-17B with public sector defence yards Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in the fray for their construction. In the past too, orders had been split between the two shipyards.

The AoN was also accorded for procurement of air defence FCRs, which will detect and track aerial targets and provide firing solution.

"The proposal has also been approved for Forward Repair Team (Tracked) which has suitable cross country mobility for carrying out in-situ repair during mechanised operations," the statement said, and this equipment is designed and developed by Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited, for both mechanised infantry battalions and armoured regiments.

Three AoNs have been accorded to enhance the capabilities of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), the statement said. These include procurement of Dornier-228 aircraft, next-generation fast patrol vessels having high operational features in rough weather conditions and next-generation offshore patrol vessels with advanced technology and enhanced long-range operations, the Ministry added.

Netflix to add real names of terrorists in *IC 814* web series

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A scene from IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack. NETFLIX

Responding to the Union government's concerns, Netflix India has agreed to update the opening disclaimer of *IC 814: The Kandahar Hijack*, a fictional series based on the 1999 hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane, to include the real names of the hijackers, belonging to the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen

The change will be displayed on Wednesday after Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sanjay Jaju summoned Netflix content head Monika Shergill to share concerns about the depiction of the Pakistani terrorists.

It is learnt that Ms. Shergill assured the government that the streaming platform would take corrective measures.

Two issues were raised, government sources told *The Hindu*. "One was that there was no disclosure on the part of the makers of the series and the platform on the real names of the hijackers. The names '*Bhola*' and '*Shankar*' were aliases used by the hijackers," a senior official said.

"We also said that while the hijackers were shown in a sympathetic light and as firm in their negotiations with the Indian government, officials were shown as dithering without real information, which wasn't an accurate portrayal. It amounted to whitewashing the role of Pakistan-backed hijackers," the official added.

Ms. Shergill responded, sources said, by saying that the filmmakers had based the series on the book *Flight Into Fear* and had been remiss in not putting out the relevant disclosures.

3 missing after Coast Guard helicopter lands in sea

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three crew members went missing after an advanced light helicopter of the Indian Coast Guard made an emergency landing in sea off Gujarat coast. One crew member was rescued, the Coast Guard said in a statement on Tuesday.

The incident took place after the Coast Guard launched an operation around 11 p.m. on Monday to evacuate a seriously injured crew member aboard the Indian-flagged motor tanker *Hari Leela*, about 45 kilometre from Porbandar into sea,in response to a request received from the master of the vessel.

As the helicopter was approaching the vessel for the evacuation, it had to make an emergency landing in sea.

Four ships and two aircraft have been deployed for the search operation.

"Search for remaining three crew is in progress. Aircraft wreckage has been located," it said.

Tharoor slams Centre over formation of standing committees

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shashi Tharoor. PTI

Amid intense negotiations between the Centre and the Opposition over control of the Parliamentary Standing Committees, senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor slammed the BJP-led government for its "reluctance" to cede the chairmanship of key committees on Finance, External Affairs, and Defence. It reflects the government's "growing insecurity" rather than any accumulation of wisdom or confidence after 10 years in power, he said.

Three months into the 18th Lok Sabha's term, the committees are yet to be formed. There have been several rounds of discussion between two sides, but the negotiations have not made any headway.

In a post on X quoting *The Hindu*'s report, Mr. Tharoor pointed out that in 2014, when the Congress tally was just 44, he had chaired the Parliamentary panel on External Affairs, while Veerappa Moily headed the panel on Finance. But now, despite the Congress's 101 MPs, the government seemed reluctant to hand over control of any of the three panels which the largest Opposition party had sought.

"This suggests a deplorably changed mentality and only reflects their growing insecurity, rather than any accumulation of wisdom or confidence after 10 years in government," he said.

The committees, he said, provided an additional layer of scrutiny and accountability for the government without the political grandstanding often associated with publicly televised sessions of Parliament itself.

Revised MBBS curriculum has errors, say transgender, disability rights groups

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Activists say the NMC has removed the mandatory seven hours of disability competencies from the foundation course. FILE PHOTO

Transgender and disablity rights groups have criticised the revised guidelines for the Competency-Based Medical Education Curriculum released by the National Medical Commission recently.

The guidelines, effective from the 2024-25 MBBS batch, say that sodomy and lesbianism are sexual offences and transvestism (cross-dressing) is a sexual perversion.

The NMC has also removed the mandatory seven hours of disability competencies from the foundation course.

Activists said they would be writing to the NMC to rectify the "errors".

Speaking to *The Hindu* after the release of the new curriculum, Satendra Singh, heading the Doctors with Disabilities: Agents of Change, which works for the welfare of doctors with disabilities, pointed to the legal issues with the new curriculum.

"The NMC is in violation of the Transgender Persons Protection Act, 2019. After being admonished by the Madras High Court and Kerala High Court, the commission issued a letter to all medical universities on October 13, 2021, instructing them to not approve unscientific, derogatory and discriminatory information on the LGBTQ community. Yet, under these new regulations, the NMC requires faculty to teach MBBS students in forensic medicine that sodomy and lesbianism are sexual offences and transvestism (cross-dressing) is a sexual perversion," Dr. Singh said.

Moreover, the inclusion of disability rights was highlighted as a mandatory competency in 2019 by the NMC. "However, the commission has now suddenly removed the mandatory seven hours of disability competencies from the foundation course in its new regulations, which violates the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPDA), 2016," he added.

Human rights

"Section 39 (2)(f) of the RPDA mandates the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the curriculum of universities, colleges and schools. Section 47 (1)(b) further requires the integration of disability as a component in all educational courses for university teachers, doctors, nurses, and paramedical personnel. The curriculum's sole focus on the management of disabilities reinforces the NMC's outdated and archaic emphasis on the medical model of disability rather than the human rights model of disability. Why must doctors from the disability and transgender communities repeatedly take the NMC to court to ensure the implementation of laws that are already mandated?'' the group asked.

The NMC maintained that it has evolved the curriculum from the 2019 version, making it "more learner-centric, patient-centric, gender-sensitive, outcome-oriented and environment appropriate".

It said that the undergraduate medical education programme had been designed to create an "Indian medical graduate" possessing knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and responsiveness to function effectively as a physician of first contact for the community, while being globally relevant.

West Bengal govt. is not cooperating: Centre to SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre has moved the Supreme Court seeking a direction to West Bengal to cooperate and logistically support the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel providing security at the R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata following the rape and murder of a trainee doctor.

The Centre said the CISF personnel were faced with accommodation issues.

The CISF was deployed at the hospital on the basis of Supreme Court orders on August 20 and 22.

The top court had taken *suo motu* cognisance of the crime and constituted a National Task Force to suggest security reforms, better work conditions, and infrastructure facilities for doctors and medical staffers in public hospitals.

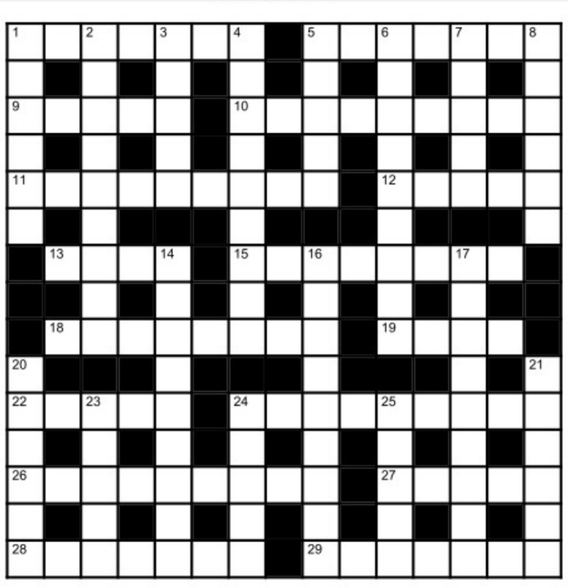
A Bench had said "the nation cannot wait for another rape and murder in order to bring in safety laws for medical professionals and doctors".

TH CROSSWORD + 14271

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Occupy tent, inside is repulsive (7)
5 Student made money being scholarly (7)
9 It shows approximately there is opportunity to admit fifty (5)
10 With no help, ran away with this instrument (9)
11 Hair covering Indian deity, mostly it is metal (9)
12 Starts with ultra violet exposure around sensitive parts of the eye (5)
13 Constant current over the top (4)
15 Handle more, maybe cooler inside (8)
18 Fee for the servant (8)
19 Buttocks on a roll, to start with (4)
22 Rejecting a block of wood (5)
24 Stretched? Happy to take on penultimate challenge (9)
26 Criminal charge on a foreign port (9)
27 Hobbles with fifty one representatives (5)
28 Certainly put or put off? (7)
29 Monkey bit the tip off the fruit (7)

Down

1 Points to doctor, "lay to ground" (6)
2 "Ginger, it's too strong a wind to catch a fish" (9)
3 Only game played, it's famous, watch (5)
4 De Gaulle, say/says operate later (9)
5 Please endlessly - mistake is a mistake (5)
6 Girl followed by cat right behind host (9)
7 Marriage gets a breather, filled with love (5)
8 Attractive girl picks one who is European (6)
14 Pacifying as the venue is restricted for a party (9)
16 Slenderest housing to store a missile (9)
17 Least worried, adding more volatile chemical (9)
20 Sailor with a paddle meets bad end on the ship (6)
21 Strange issue, very likely to happen (4-2)
23 Neighbourhood bar (5)
24 Animal's close to home ground (5)
25 Automaton trying to seal the drum ends (5)

SUDOKU

	6					2		9
		9		6			3	1
				4	5	8		
3			5				8	
8			2		6			3
	5				8			4
		7	3	5				
2	3			8		7		
5		8					1	

No.SS6271 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

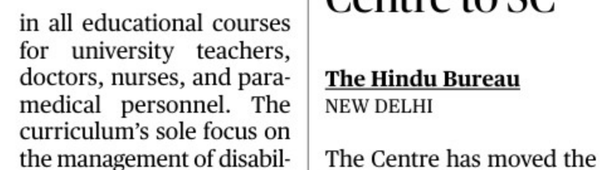
DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

F	I	R	E	D	A	M	P	■	C	O	R	P	U	S
E	■	E	■	O	■	O	■	I	■	S	■	R	■	E
D	E	L	I	G	H	T	■	N	A	I	V	E	S	T
O	■	I	■	V	■	I	■	N	■	E	■	T	■	A
R	I	S	H	I	■	O	D	O	U	R	L	E	S	S
A	■	H	■	O	■	N	■	M	■	■	■	N	■	I
■	■	■	C	L	A	S	S	I	F	I	E	D	A	D
C	■	M	■	E	■	I	■	N	■	S	■	S	■	E
A	R	I	S	T	O	C	R	A	T	I	C	■	■	■
L	■	L	■	■	■	K	■	T	■	N	■	R	■	E
A	L	L	A	T	O	N	C	E	■	G	R	E	E	D
M	■	I	■	O	■	E	■	B	■	L	■	V	■	I
I	G	N	O	R	E	S	■	O	V	A	R	I	E	S
T	■	E	■	S	■	S	■	N	■	S	■	E	■	O
Y	A	R	R	O	W	■	G	E	R	S	H	W	I	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	7	8	2	9	4	1	6	5
4	6	2	1	5	7	9	8	3
5	9	1	6	3	8	2	7	4
1	4	5	9	8	2	7	3	6
9	3	6	4	7	5	8	1	2
8	2	7	3	1	6	4	5	9
6	8	9	7	2	3	5	4	1
2	5	3	8	4	1	6	9	7
7	1	4	5	6	9	3	2	8



FAITH

Gugga, the healer

Subaltern gods have a powerful reach across regions and religions, and Gugga was one such, said Prof. Kumool Abbi. Venerated as Guggaji by Hindus and Gugga pir or Gugga Zahir Pir by Muslims, Gugga was a Rajput prince, the son of King Jewar and Queen Bacchal of the Agnivamsa clan of the Rajputs. Riding a blue horse and holding blue and yellow flags, he is believed to possess divine powers to control poisonous snakes. He is specially worshipped for his protective and healing powers. Mothers pray to him to cure their sick child and those yearning for offspring pray to him with complete faith in his powers.

Gugga's birth is believed to be the divine blessings of Guru Gorakhnath, who granted a boon to Bacchal Devi after she undertook severe penance. She was gifted a medicinal guggal fruit, and Gugga was named after it. Gugga Naumi is a popular folk, religious festival celebrated by north Indians everywhere. The festival reflects the syncretic and fluid traditions of India where he is worshipped by people of various religions and sects. The celebration of Gugga Naumi begins on the day of Rakhi and continues for nine days beginning with pilgrimages to Gugga medi village in Hanumangarh district of Rajasthan. The *Garaudas* (snake charmers and poison suckers) carry the *chahadi* (standard) of Guggapir to Hanumangarh.

INBRIEF

Classic Legends introduces 350cc Jawa 42 FJ at ₹1.99 lakh

Classic Legends Pvt. Ltd., which manufactures motorcycles under iconic brands such as Jawa, Yazdi and BSA, on Tuesday introduced the 350cc Jawa 42 FJ, starting ₹1,99,142 (ex-showroom Delhi). This is the company's ninth motorcycle offering since its start in 2018. The top variant of Jawa 42 FJ is priced at ₹2,20,142 (ex-showroom Delhi). The new 350 Jawa 42 FJ is the newest edition in the brand's Neo-Classic lineup, joining the popular 42 and 42 Bobber.

Raymond Lifestyle eyes 7% share of men's wedding wear

Ahead of its listing on September 5 post demerger from Raymonds Ltd., Raymond Lifestyle Ltd. (RLL) said it targeted to achieve a 7% market share of the Indian men's wedding wear segment by 2027 from 5% currently. "In the next three years, we anticipate Raymond Lifestyle doubling its EBITDA to over ₹2,000 crore. We are also looking towards a 12-15% sales growth in the lifestyle sector," said Amit Agarwal, Chief Financial Officer, Raymond Group.

Unox India opens fifth lounge, targets 35% growth in CY24

Italian commercial oven maker Unox is eyeing a 35% jump in sales revenue from India operations during CY24, said a top executive. "We posted sales of over ₹7,000 crore in 2023 and this year, we expect to touch ₹10,000 crore. We are on track to achieve it," Unox MEA Director of Customer Experience Matt Roberts said during an interaction. Mr. Roberts was in Chennai to open the fifth lounge of Unox in India after Goa, Mumbai, Guwahati and Bengaluru.

Private sector borrowings to rise on capex push: Patra

Households are expected to start rebuilding their savings and will remain top net lenders to the rest of the economy in the coming years, RBI Deputy Governor Patra says at Financing 3.0 summit

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Private sector borrowings are set to rise in the coming years spurred by a revival in capital expenditure with the resultant demand for funds expected to be largely met by households, Reserve Bank of India Deputy Governor Michael D. Patra said on Tuesday.

Observing that the private corporate sector had been drastically reducing net borrowings due to increased profits and subdued capacity creation, Dr. Patra said: "Looking ahead, its net borrowing requirement is likely to rise on the back of a revival in the capex cycle".

Cash catalyst: Financing requirements will largely be met by households and external resources, says Dr. Patra. PTI

"These financing requirements will largely be met by households and external resources," he said.

With households expected to build back savings, Dr. Patra. said households would continue to be the top net lenders to the rest of the economy in the coming decades.

On the role of foreign capital, he said, "As the productive capacity of the economy rises and its ability to absorb foreign resources expands, the volume of external financing and its composition may undergo fundamental shifts." However, given past experience, "external debt sustainability" would remain a policy priority for the RBI, Dr. Patra assured.

Make up for Q1, Q2 capex goals by Dec., FM to officials

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With public capex taking a backseat in the first quarter of 2024-25 owing to the general election, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Tuesday kicked off an assessment of capital spending efforts by ministries as the Centre strives to meet its ₹11.11 lakh crore target through the rest of the year.

The Minister began the series of reviews with Ministries of Road Transport and Highways and Telecom. They have been allocated just over ₹3 lakh crore in capital outlays this year. She emphasised that departments must expedite implementing and "make up for Q1 and Q2 (FY25) targets in Q3 itself".

Urging ministries to pursue "meaningful creation of assets for public utility", Ms. Sitharaman underscored the importance of setting quarterly targets and ensuring they were achieved within a stipulated time frame, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Ministries' assurance

Top officials from the Road Transport Ministry, with a ₹2.72 lakh crore capex outlay in the Budget, informed Ms. Sitharaman that they were taking steps to attract private capital and meet asset recycling targets.

With a capex goal of almost ₹29,000 crore, Telecom Ministry officials assured her that "all targets are on track and will be met in time".

Bajaj Housing Finance unveils ₹6,560-cr. IPO

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd. has announced to enter the capital market with an initial public offering (IPO) in the price band of ₹66-70 per share to raise up to ₹6,560 crore.

The IPO of shares (face value of ₹10 each) comprises a fresh issue aggregating up to ₹3,560 crore and an offer for sale (OFS) of up to ₹3,000 crore by promoter selling shareholder Bajaj Finance Ltd.

The issue will open on September 9 and close on September 11.

Bids can be made for a minimum of 214 equity shares and in multiples of 214 shares thereafter.

For subscription by employees, the reservation portion includes shares aggregating up to ₹200 crore and for shareholders of Bajaj Finance and Bajaj Finserv, the reservation portion includes shares aggregating up to ₹500 crore, the company said.

Bajaj Housing, a 100% subsidiary of Bajaj Finance Ltd., intends to utilise the net proceeds of the fresh issue towards augmenting its capital base to meet future business requirements of the company towards onward lending.

Total to invest $444 mn in JV with Adani Green

Reuters
PARIS

The new JV will see each side hold 50% of another portfolio of 1.15 GW of solar power installations

TotalEnergies will form a joint venture (JV) with Adani Green Energy Ltd. in a deal in which the French oil giant will contribute an equity investment of $444 million, it said on Tuesday.

The two firms had formed a JV in September 2023 worth $300 million, which gave Total "direct access to ownership of assets" contributed by Adani Green – namely 1.05 gigawatts (GW) of wind and solar farms in India, where the bulk of energy requirements are still met by coal.

The new agreement, in which Total pays more, will see each side hold 50% of another portfolio of 1.15 GW of solar power installations, both operational and under construction, Adani Green said in a statement.

The electricity will be sold on the wholesale market and through power purchase agreements with the Solar Energy Corporation of India, Total said in a statement.

ALL unveils vehicle trouble-shooting unit

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Ashok Leyland Ltd. (ALL) said it had set up an Uptime Solution Centre at its facility at Ennore, near the city, for quick troubleshooting, thereby minimising vehicle downtime and optimising fleet performance.

The unit brings together aftermarket, vehicle-engineering and field-quality teams to proactively support ALL customers across the country by promptly troubleshooting and resolving technical issues.

"We are launching this centre after conducting pilot for more than eight months in Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh," President MHCV Sanjeev Kumar told the media. "During this period, we addressed issues of 1.25 lakh operators.

"At this Centre, we have combined predictive analytics with real-time monitoring to make vehicles more reliable and create a smarter, quicker service system. This Centre will provide customers with useful insights about the vehicle's operation and help them proactively address any potential issue."

Flixbus flags off bus service in south India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

FlixBus, a Bavaria-based green-mobility player, inaugurated bus services in south India on Tuesday.

To start with, FlixBus would operate six bus routes from Bengaluru to Chennai and Hyderabad.

The company would have bus operations in 33 cities in south India while connecting 101 cities across the country, Co-Founder Daniel Krauss said.

Operations in south India would formally commence from September 10. Inaugural routes would connect Bengaluru with 33 cities, including more than 200 connections such as Chennai, Hyderabad, Vijayawada, Madurai, Belgaum and Chennai to Coimbatore.

"After the success of north India operations, expanding to south India is the next step in our journey to revolutionise intercity travel," Surya Khurana, India MD, said.

"We have received a positive response from customers and bus partners, reaffirming our belief in the power of our technology-driven model," Mr. Khurana added.

Samsung eyes 4x growth in sales of front-load washing machines

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Saurabh Baishakhia

South Korean electronics manufacturer Samsung says it is looking to up its game in the Indian washing machine market, especially in the tech-driven and large-capacity front-loading category.

"We now have a 20% market share in the overall washing machine market in the country," Saurabh Baishakhia, Sr. Director, Digital Appliances Business, Samsung India, told *The Hindu*. "In the front loading category, we command a 31% market share and the target is to increase this share to 50% in the next couple of quarters," he added.

According to Mr. Baishakhia, about 10 million washing machines, worth $2.4 billion, are sold in India in a year, of which 35% are front-loading machines, a segment that is growing at 40% annually, primarily driven by 9 kg and above capacity machines.

"In many products, including home theatres, refrigerators, air conditioners, and microwaves, we are already doing well in the market. Washing machines is one category where we still need to up our game in India. We are targeting a 4x growth in the sales of front loading washing machines this year," he said.

He also said when the overall washing machine industry was growing at mid single-digit, the company was targeting a much speedier growth.

"More and more households are aspiring to have front-loading washing machines. South is a large market with Karnataka growing at a faster pace," he said further.

$4 billion in IT products said to be imported via govt. plan

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

With the deadline to review the 'import-management system' for laptops and other IT products nearing, firms which received authorisations have imported products worth more than $4 billion this fiscal, an official said on condition of anonymity.

Imports were at $8.4 billion in FY24, mostly from China, the official said.

In October last year, the Centre rolled out the system aiming at monitoring the imports of these items without hurting their supply in the market.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	82,555	-0.01
US Dollar	83.98	-0.08
Gold	74,050	-0.06
Brent oil	74.04	-4.55

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3036.10	-6.05
Adani Ports	1479.55	-14.95
Apollo Hosp	6844.85	-35.20
Asian Paints	3154.85	3.90
Axis Bank	1191.60	2.80
Bajaj Auto	11043.65	-82.45
Bajaj Finserv	1865.60	25.05
Bajaj Finance	7353.80	-86.25
Bharti Airtel	1560.60	-10.75
BPCL	355.40	-3.05
Britannia Ind	5916.05	-6.10
Cipla	1653.20	6.55
Coal India	519.60	-1.25
Divis Lab	5066.00	29.15
Dr Reddys Lab	6853.85	-18.30
Eicher Motors	4865.80	-46.15
Grasim Ind	2706.85	16.05
HCL Tech	1790.45	-16.20
HDFC Bank	1637.35	10.40
HDFC Life	758.75	13.45
Hero MotoCorp	5646.50	68.30
Hindalco	678.90	-5.00
Hind Unilever	2794.30	5.25
ICICI Bank	1247.70	17.75
IndusInd Bank	1436.70	-12.35
Infosys	1941.25	-23.25
ITC	509.40	-0.65
JSW Steel	930.95	-9.50
Kotak Bank	1783.80	3.55
L&T	3690.15	7.05
LTIMindtree Ltd.	6145.70	-7.80
M&M	2784.85	7.85
Maruti Suzuki	12397.10	-30.30
NestleIndia	2530.75	20.85
NTPC	406.40	-3.60
ONGC	322.20	-4.00
PowerGrid Corp	334.65	-0.90
Reliance Ind	3018.25	-14.25
SBI Life	1928.65	39.90
State Bank	824.80	2.65
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3271.60	46.35
Sun Pharma	1811.50	-4.45
TataConsumerProduct	1199.00	-0.70
Tata Motors	1085.10	-7.55
Tata Steel	152.15	-0.73
TCS	4512.35	-8.70
Tech Mahindra	1644.10	-2.55
Titan	3621.15	33.60
UltraTech Cement	11460.80	35.90
Wipro	536.05	3.60

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on September 03

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.77	84.09
Euro	92.45	92.81
British Pound	109.93	110.36
Japanese Yen (100)	57.32	57.54
Chinese Yuan	11.76	11.80
Swiss Franc	98.27	98.66
Singapore Dollar	63.95	64.21
Canadian Dollar	61.83	62.06
Malaysian Ringitt	19.17	19.25
Australian Dollar	56.38	56.60

Source:Indian Bank

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SHAZEEN Taj, W/o Harish. B.N, R/at #208, Sree Shaneshwara Temple Road, Shaneshwara Nagar Andrahalli Main Road, Peenya 2nd Stage, Bangalore North-560058, have changed my name from Shazeen Taj to Tanya Harish vide affidavit dated 03/09/2024 before Notary K.S.Giridhar, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MIR Hussain Ali S/o Mirza Sikander Ali Baig residing at No. 23, Druvesh Heaven, 3rd Flr, E-2 Flat Rose Garden, Neelasandra, Bengaluru-560047 have changed my name to Aayan Ali vide affidavit dated 03/09/2024 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

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PERSONAL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE, SARAVANARAJ Rajaraman S/O Rajaraman and S Geethanjali W/O Saravanaraj Rajaraman residing at 002, Sunrise's Akshara Enclave Apartment, 5th Cross, Bosco Nagar, Lake City Township, T.C. Palaya Main Road, Krishnarajapuram, Bangalore 560036 hereby declare that our sons name S Yogethrajaraman and S Yogeth Rajaraman both name belongs to him only. Hence forth he shall be known and called as S Yogeth Rajaraman only for all legal purposes, vide affidavit dated 02/09/2024 sworn before notary C Sasikala, Bangalore-36

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AT MYSORE
ORIGINAL SUIT NO. 531 OF 2021

BETWEEN :
ICICI Bank Ltd.
A body corporate incorporated and registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 and licensed as a Bank under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 having Registered Office at: "Landmark", Race Course Circle, Vadodara- 390007. And having branch Office ICICI Bank Ltd., Retail Assist Product, 1st Floor, Deekshas Setty Mansion, Ch-34/2,3,4, Ramavilas Road, Mysore- 570 024 and represented by its POA holder and Manager Mr. Natesh. K.M. S/o Mahadevaish P., aged about 39 years, ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Defendant :
Mr. Vishwanath T. S/o. Thimmappa, Aged about 43 years, R/at. No. 55, 5th Main, 13th Cross C Block, Near Ganesha Temple, Mahadevapura, Mandya-570008 ...DEFENDANT

Summons to the defendant by way of paper publication

To,
Defendant :
Mr. Vishwanath T. S/o. Thimmappa, Aged about 43 years, R/at. No. 55, 5th Main, 13th Cross C Block, Near Ganesha Temple, Mahadevapura, Mandya-570008

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has filed a suit under Order VII Rule 1 of the Civil Procedure Code for recovery of Rs. 4,43,751/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Forty Three Thousand Seven ndred and Fifty One Only) together with interest at the rate 18% p.a. from date of due to till the date of realization.
You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by a pleader on the 27th day of September, 2024 at 11:00 am to show cause against the suit and failing wherein the suit will be heard and determined exparte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this 28th day of August, 2024.

By the Order of Court
Chief Administrative Officer
District & Sessions Court
Mysuru

Advocates for Plaintiff
S.M. ANEES AHAMED,
B.M. KUSHALAPPA,
Advocates,
No. 4 (10/2), West Park Road,

KINSHASA

Attempted prison break at DR Congo jail leaves at least 129 dead

AFP

An attempted jail break from DR Congo's largest prison has left at least 129 people dead and led to women being raped. The circumstances around the bid to bust out of the Makala prison in the capital Kinshasa, which holds 10 times the number it is meant to house, in the early hours of Monday remain unclear. AFP

NAIROBI

Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine 'shot in the leg by police'

AFP

Ugandan opposition leader Bobi Wine, a leading critic of authoritarian President Yoweri Museveni, was shot in the leg by police on Tuesday, a statement said. The circumstances surrounding the incident at Bulindo, around 20 km north of the capital Kampala, were unclear. AFP

CARACAS

Venezuelan court grants arrest warrant for Maduro's rival

AFP

A Venezuelan court granted an arrest warrant Monday for opposition presidential candidate Edmundo Gonzalez Urrutia, who claims to have rightfully won July elections that authorities awarded to incumbent Nicolas Maduro. The court had granted its request for a warrant for Gonzalez Urrutia for "serious crimes." AFP

GENEVA

Case of Telegram founder Durov raises human rights concerns: UN

REUTERS

The arrest and charging of Telegram founder Pavel Durov is a complex case which raises a lot of human rights concerns, the United Nations said on Tuesday. The UN Human Rights Office said the agency was considering publishing a paper setting out "the parameters within which these situations should be looked at". AFP

Bangladesh former PM Zia acquitted in five cases

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has been acquitted in five separate cases, including one filed over allegations of celebrating a "fake birthday" and another for supporting war criminals. The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) chairperson was acquitted after the plaintiff did not appear in court.

The complainant claimed he found out through sources that Ms. Hasina's birthday did not fall on August 15. The complainant alleged that Ms. Zia celebrated her birthday on August 15, the national mourning day for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, only to tarnish his reputation.

Israel PM remains unbowed by pressure as war rages on

Netanyahu says he would not give in to pressure to renege on demands in indirect negotiations with Hamas to end the war; Israel's week-long military operation in West Bank pushes toll to 27

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Concerns grew on Tuesday over the chances of securing a Gaza truce, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected making any "concessions" in stalled talks towards a hostage release deal.

Mr. Netanyahu told a televised press conference at the end of a day of nationwide protests that he would "not give in to pressure" to renege on demands in indirect negotiations with Hamas to end the war, now nearing its 12th month.

Gripped by grief and fury after six dead hostages were recovered from Gaza, Israelis took to the streets on Sunday and Monday to ramp up pressure on their government to secure the release of the remaining captives.

Bloody hands: Demonstrators call for the release of hostages at a protest near Israeli Prime Minister's residence in Jerusalem. AFP

"These murderers executed six of our hostage," said Mr. Netanyahu, who has increasingly faced accusations from critics in Israel as well as Hamas officials and analysts of prolonging the war for political gain.

Border control

"I will not give in to pressure," Mr. Netanyahu told the press conference, saying Israel must control Gaza's border with Egypt to stop Hamas from re-arming.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces were operating on Tuesday in the northern West Bank, nearly a week into military raids in the occupied territory that the Palestinian health ministry said killed at least 27.

An Israeli air strike overnight that the military said targeted militants in Tulkarem killed a 15-year-old Palestinian.

Putin visits Mongolia after brushing aside ICC warrant

Associated Press
ULAANBAATAR

Russian President Vladimir Putin visited Mongolia on Tuesday with no sign that the host country would bow to calls to arrest him on an international warrant for alleged war crimes stemming from the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

The trip is Mr. Putin's first to a member country of the International Criminal Court since it issued the warrant about 18 months ago. Ahead of his visit, Ukraine called on Mongolia to hand Mr. Putin over to the court in The Hague, and the European Union expressed concern that Mongolia might not execute the warrant.

The Russian leader was welcomed in the main square in Ulaanbaatar, the capital, by an honor guard dressed in vivid red and blue uniforms styled on those of the personal guard of 13th century ruler Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol Empire.

Guard of honour: Vladimir Putin, right, and Mongolian President Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh in Ulaanbaatar on Monday. AFP

A few protesters who tried to unfurl a Ukrainian flag were taken away by police. Five others who gathered west of the square held up an anti-Putin banner and Ukrainian flag but disbanded after hearing about the arrests.

The two governments signed agreements for a feasibility study and the design of an upgrade to a power plant in Ulaanbaatar and to ensure the continuous supply of aviation fuel to Mongolia. Mr. Putin also outlined plans to develop the rail system between the two countries.

Fixing Sri Lanka's economy, wiping out racism top priorities, says Dissanayake

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

Fixing Sri Lanka's battered economy and wiping out racism will be top priority for a National People's Power (NPP) government, Anura Kumara Dissanayake, among the frontrunners in the September 21 race, said on Tuesday.

He spoke to *The Hindu* amid a hectic campaign at the headquarters of the Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a party with Marxist origins that is leading the NPP alliance. Sri Lanka is "poised for a renaissance project", departing from the old political order, Mr. Dissanayake, 55, said. "People are voting for change." Multiple domestic polls have given the opposition politician a lead in the contest.

The JVP leader, who was elected to parliament from Colombo, along with Opposition Leader Sajith Premadasa, have emerged as key challengers to incumbent Ranil Wickremesinghe, who is also running for President.

The NPP's campaign began "long ago", Mr. Dissanayake said, referring to his party's steady efforts soon after its poor performance in the 2019 election, when he contested and came third, with just 3.16% votes. Gotabaya Rajapaksa then won with a clear majority.

Mr. Dissanayake's prospects improved dramatically in the past five years, not only because of an impressive grassroots campaign. Sri Lanka has witnessed momentous changes, with a mass uprising ousting Mr. Gotabaya from office when a crushing economic crisis gripped the country in 2022. In addition to demanding his resignation, the people's movement called for "system change". That sentiment, too, has since propelled Mr. Dissanayake to prominence with many, especially youth, seeing him personify the change they sought.

Joining hands: Anura Kumara Dissanayake says there is a need to work with India especially in the energy sector. AP

Sharing a three-fold objective for the first five years if he were President, he said: "If we can fix the economy and make it work for all; build a country with no racism or religious intolerance; and set a course for social justice, I would consider it a success."

IMF programme

Apart from vowing to eliminate corruption, the NPP has said it will renegotiate Sri Lanka's ongoing programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), as has Mr. Premadasa's main opposition alliance.

The NPP has two bogeys raised by its critics – the JVP's two armed insurrections in the 1970s and 1980s, and its economic management, given the party's roots in state socialism. Critics fear an NPP government may roll back the private sector role in the economy, and raise welfare spending widening the budget deficit, instead of deepening market deregulation and trade liberalisation as set out in the ongoing IMF programme.

Similar promises

While the JVP, which is the political core of Mr. Dissanayake's electoral alliance, is 'Marxist-Leninist' in its founding ideology, the NPP manifesto makes no radical pitch for anti-capitalist policies. Mr. Dissanayake himself points to several comparable promises on welfare schemes in "all main manifestos". "In fact, our welfare project will cost the state much less than others'," he claims.

On his plans to increase government revenue, he said, making the tax collection system efficient would boost income, "without imposing any new taxes". The NPP manifesto has envisioned domestic production-based economic growth. "Our party has demonstrated its commitment to democratic politics for 35 years now. And we have outlined our economic vision very clearly for everyone to see. All this fear mongering by our rivals about our past and future have not gained any traction among voters," he said.

Speaking on foreign investment, Mr. Dissanayake said there is a "need to work with India", especially in the energy sector. "Sri Lanka has enormous potential for producing renewable, especially wind, energy," he said pointing to potential Indian collaboration.

"We welcome foreign capital, including from the private sector. But all investments should come through a fair tender process," he said, referring to Adani Green's current offer of $0.0826, or 8.26 cents, per kWh in a wind energy project it is currently backing, in northern Sri Lanka. "If the government had gone for a fair tender process, we could have got it for half the price."

Tamils' support

While the surge in Mr. Dissanayake's popularity in many parts of the country is visible, he does not seem to have made major inroads yet into the north that is home to the war-affected Tamils.

It would be the "duty" of an NPP government to address long-pending issues around war-time accountability, truth, and justice that Tamils want, he said. "Our aim is to make domestic mechanisms credible and sound, so the Tamil people will be able to trust them. Past governments were determined to hide the truth and delay the processes."

On the pending political settlement, Mr. Dissanayake said his government would take forward past efforts towards drafting a new constitution, referring to the initiative the Maithripala Sirisena and Ranil Wickremesinghe government began in 2015 and later abandoned.

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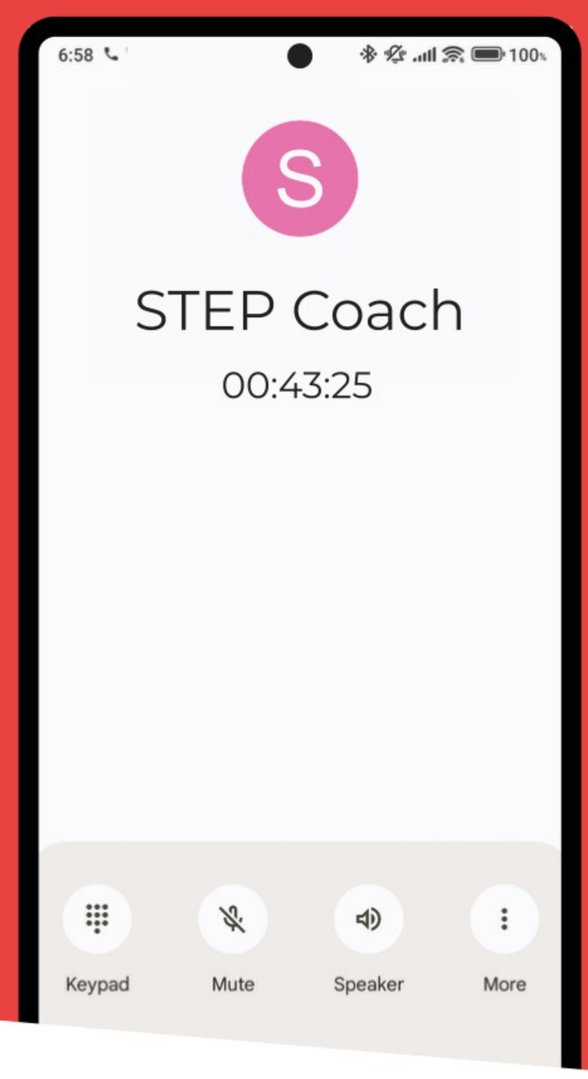

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HAT-TRICK BECKONS

It will be great to top the podium in Los Angeles 2028 too: Sumit

ANI

Sumit Antil, who can make it three in a row at Los Angeles 2028, fancies his chances. "As far as LA 2028 is concerned, I am 26 now and 30 then. In our sport, the peak age is around 31-32. It will be great to top the podium there too (after Tokyo and Paris). All efforts will certainly be in that direction," said Sumit.

SILVER, BUT...

Suhas 'sad and disappointed' at missing the gold medal in Paris

REUTERS

India's para-shuttler Suhas Yathiraj feels 'sad and disappointed' after his second successive Paralympics silver. "Winning the silver is a mixed feeling... there is sadness and disappointment in missing the gold. But, when the feeling sinks in, you will realise that making it to the Games and representing your country was a big thing."

FIRST TIME

World Test Championship final at Lord's from June 11 to 15, 2025

REUTERS

The third World Test Championship (WTC) final will be played at Lord's between June 11 and 15 next year, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced. June 16 will be the reserve day. Lord's is hosting the WTC final for the first time as Southampton (2021) and the Oval (2023) were the venues for the previous two title deciders.

BAZBALL SPREADS

McCullum named England's white-ball head coach also

REUTERS

England Test coach Brendon McCullum was Tuesday named as the team's new white-ball head coach as part of a "strategic restructure" of the men's senior set-up. The England and Wales Cricket Board said he would be in charge of both the teams from January 2025, coinciding with England's white-ball tour of India and the ICC Champions Trophy.

Sumit reveals how the artificial landing leg had an impact

Icing on the cake: Sumit won gold with a Paralympic record. PTI

PARIS 2024

Sports Bureau

A day ahead of the defence of his gold medal in the men's javelin F64 category, sleep evaded Sumit Antil. Nothing out of the ordinary for the champion thrower.

"When people have expectations, the responsibilities on you increase. I wanted to give my best. The pressure to keep getting better is internal," he said a day after winning a second Paralympic gold.

The real anxiety for the 26-year-old was the condition of his back.

"When you have an injury, you lose support of those muscles in your throw. That load moves to some other muscle and it disturbs your technique," said Sumit.

Sumit's blocking leg is the one with the artificial limb, which makes it harder for him as an athlete. "My landing leg is the one with the artificial limb and it's difficult to balance on it sometimes because only the heel grabs the ground and only two spike nails stick into the ground. It is difficult to balance the full body on two nails."

"After doing all the work to set up the throw, it all comes down to the blocking leg. That is difficult and last night too I was losing balance," he added.

Sumit decided to follow the advice he got from Neeraj Chopra – 'don't try anything new' – and that worked wonders.

Making the podium: World champion Deepthi finished third behind Ukraine Shuliar, right, and Turkey's Onder. GETTY IMAGES

Deepthi runs to a bronze in women's 400m T20

Shuttler Nithya Sre gives India its fifth medal in para badminton; disappointment for Avani

Press Trust of India
PARIS

World champion Deepthi Jeevanji ensured that India's Paralympic medal haul from track-and-field continued to swell with her bronze-winning effort in the women's 400m T20 event on a largely uneventful day for the country here on Tuesday.

The 20-year-old clocked 55.82s to secure a podium finish in her debut Games appearance.

She finished behind Yuliia Shuliar (55.16s) of Ukraine and world record holder Aysel Onder (55.23s) of Turkey.

Thrilled: Nithya Sre proudly shows off her award. REUTERS

Ace shooter Avani Lekhara missed out on a second medal at the Games as she finished fifth in the final of the women's 50m rifle 3 positions SH1 competition with a total of 420.6.

Germany's Natascha Hiltrop took gold with a total of 456.5.

Bhagyashri Jadhav finished fifth in the women's shot put F34 with a 7.28m. China's Lijuan Zou won with a season's best of 9.14m.

Meanwhile on Monday, Nithya Sre Sivan beat Indonesia's Rina Marlina 21-14, 21-6 in the women's singles SH6 third-place playoff match to give India its fifth medal in para badminton.

Coach Marquez begins with a goalless draw against Mauritius

Roadblock: India could hardly make any headway against a determined opponent. NAGARA GOPAL

Aneesh Dey
HYDERABAD

Manolo Marquez had a tepid start to his stint as India coach as the Blue Tigers were held to a goalless draw by Mauritius in the Intercontinental Cup 2024 opener at the G.M.C. Balayogi Stadium here on Tuesday.

India carved out its first chance in the sixth minute. Anirudh Thapa's corner reached the back post, where Chinglensana Singh came close to getting a touch but failed to reach it in time.

Marquez cut a sorry figure on the touchlines as the players failed to stitch together more than three passes inside the Mauritius half.

Just when the contest seemed to slipping into a stupor, the hosts created an opportunity in the 35th minute.

Thapa spotted an opening and delivered a deft pass to Manvir Singh. The latter timed his run to perfection, breaking free from his marker, and shot from a tight angle. However, the experienced Mauritius 'keeper Jean Louis Kevin O'Brian showed fine reflexes and palmed the ball away.

The Mauritians responded with a chance of their own two minutes later, but Emmanuel Vincent struck the crossbar off a shot from the edge of the box.

India failed to find its footing in the second half and it was the visitors who had the better of the exchanges, forcing custodian Amrinder Singh to make a couple of saves.

Marquez made a few changes in the strike force, bringing on Sahal Abdul Samad and Nandhakumar Sekar. However, Mauritius held on, leaving the Indians frustrated.

The hungry Lions keep themselves in the hunt

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
CHENNAI

Chennai Lions, inspired by its captain A. Sharath Kamal, roared in its last league match and made a strong push for a semifinal spot by crushing Puneri Paltan Table Tennis by a record margin (12-3) in the Ultimate Table Tennis penultimate league clash on Tuesday.

Lions seemed to have left it too late, but the veteran's clean sweep (6-0 in two matches) boosted his team's chances.

However, Sakura Mori's first loss of the season meant Lions have to cheer for Jaipur Patriots in Wednesday's final league match against Ahmedabad SG Pipers. If the latter fails to win seven games or more, Lions will go through.

An inspired Sharath toyed with the young Ankur Bhattacharjee, responding with a rapid winner every time his opponent tried to break the pace of a rally with his uncanny backhand jabs. Sharath's exploits rubbed off on Poymantee Baisya as she won two golden points and beat the fancied Ayhika Mukherjee without dropping a game.

The boss! Sharath masterminded Lions' record win over Paltan. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

No team in UTT history had won more than 11 games in a match ever since it switched to a 15-point format since the third edition. With Lions racing to a 9-0 lead, history was in the making. More importantly, the Chennai outfit was eyeing 13 points to ensure its qualification. However, Joao Monteiro snatched a game off Jules Rolland before Natalia Bajor played her best match of the season to keep the door open.

The results: Chennai Lions bt Puneri Paltan 12-3 (A. Sharath Kamal bt Ankur Bhattacharjee 11-7, 11-6, 11-2; Poymantee Baisya bt Ayhika Mukherjee 11-10, 11-9, 11-10; Sharath & Sakura Mori bt Anirban Ghosh & Natalia Bajor 11-3, 11-8, 11-8; Jules Rolland bt Joao Monteiro 11-7, 2-11,11-3; Sakuro Mori lost to Bajor 10-11, 11-8, 3-11).
The standings: Smashers 48 points (5 ties); Dabang 41 (5); Challengers 37 (5), Lions 37 (5); U Mumba 36 (5), Paltan 31 (5); Pipers 30 (4); Patriots 25 (4).

Navarro storms into the semifinal; Bopanna & Sutjiadi enter the last four in mixed doubles

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Emma Navarro reached her first Grand Slam semifinal at the US Open on Tuesday with a straight-sets victory over Paula Badosa whose challenge dramatically collapsed.

The 13th-ranked American, who knocked out defending champion Coco Gauff in the fourth round, triumphed 6-2, 7-5 after trailing 5-1 in the second set.

"When I got to 5-2, I had an inkling that I'd win in two sets," said Navarro who had lost in the first round on her only other two appearances at the tournament.

"Semifinals baby. I'm ready to rock."

World No. 1 Jannik Sinner and former champion Daniil Medvedev set up a quarterfinal showdown on Monday as both men look to exploit the hole left by the shock exits of Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz.

'Ready to rock': Navarro, who trailed 5-1 in the second set, reached her first Major semifinals. GETTY IMAGES

Australian Open champion Sinner made the last eight for the second time by seeing off US 14th seed Tommy Paul 7-6(3), 7-6(5), 6-1.

Medvedev, the 2021 champion and runner-up to Djokovic last year, outclassed Portugal's Nuno Borges 6-0, 6-1, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals for the fifth time in six years.

Women's World No. 1 Iga Swiatek, meanwhile, stayed on course for a sixth Grand Slam title with a straight-sets win over Russia's Liudmila Samsonova.

India's Rohan Bopanna, partnering Indonesia's Aldila Sutjiadi, entered the mixed doubles semifinals with a 7-6(4), 2-6, [10-7] win over Australian Matthew Ebden and Barbora Krejcikova of the Czech Republic.

Bopanna and Sutjiadi, who were down 0-3 early in the first set, fought back valiantly before slipping in the second.

The pair was 6-0 up in the match tie-break and some impressive shots saw them wrap things up nicely.

They will play Americans Donald Young and Taylor Townsend in the semifinals.

Italian Sinner recovered from 4-1 down in the first set to see off Paul, who had been hoping to join compatriots Taylor Fritz and Frances Tiafoe in the quarterfinals in New York.

Medvedev is the only former champion left after the first week defeats of four-time winner Djokovic and 2022 champion Alcaraz.

The World No. 5 easily downed 34th-ranked Borges, whose challenge fizzled out under the weight of 51 unforced errors while Medvedev broke serve eight times.

Sinner and Medvedev will be meeting for the fourth time this year.

Four-time French Open winner Swiatek, the 2022 champion in New York, celebrated her 100th Grand Slam match by cantering to a 6-4, 6-1 win over 16th-ranked Samsonova.

The Pole will take on American sixth seed Jessica Pegula for a place in the semifinals.

THE RESULTS

Men: Fourth round: 5-Medvedev (Rus) bt Borges (Por) 6-0, 6-1, 6-3; 10-de Minaur (Aus) bt Thompson (Aus) 6-0, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; 1-Sinner (Ita) bt 14-Paul (USA) 7-6(3), 7-6(5), 6-1.
Women: Quarterfinals: 13-Navarro (USA) bt 26-Badosa (Esp) 6-2, 7-5. **Fourth round:** 22-Haddad Maia (Bra) bt Wozniacki (Den) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3; 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt 16-Samsonova (Rus) 6-4, 6-1.
Mixed doubles: Quarterfinals: 8-Bopanna (Ind) & Sutjiadi (Ina) bt 4-Ebden (Aus) & Krejcikova (Cze) 7-6(4), 2-6, [10-7].

INBRIEF

Dhanush and Mahit clinch mixed air rifle gold

Dhanush Srikanth and Mahit Sandhu defeated compatriots Mohammed Vania and Natasha Joshi 17-5 to clinch the mixed air rifle gold in the second World deaf shooting championship in Hannover, Germany. Dhanush and Mahit had topped qualification with a world record score of 628.8. It was the second gold for Dhanush. In mixed air pistol, Abhinav Deshwal and Pranjali Dhumal lost 17-7 in the gold medal match to Oleksii Lazenyk and Inna Afonchenko of Ukraine.

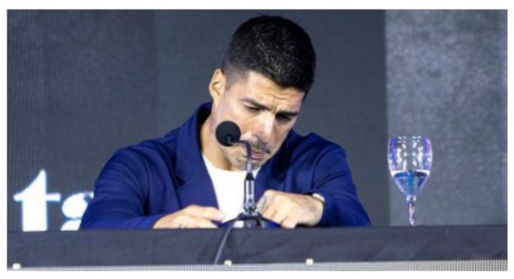
The results: 10m mixed team: Air rifle: 1. India (Dhanush Srikanth, Mahit Sandhu) 17 (628.2 WR); 2. India-2 (Mohammed Vania & Natasha Joshi) 5 (622.1); 3. Ukraine-1 16 (614.0); 4. Ukraine-2 6 (610.1).
Air pistol: 1. Ukraine (Oleksii Lazebnyk, Inna Afonchenko) 17 (558); 2. India (Abhinav Deshwal, Pranjali Dhumal) 7 (185); 3. Croatia 17 (552); 4. Ukraine-2 13 (550); 5. India-2 (Anuya Prasad, Chetan Sapkal) 542.

Bhavani Kedia goes down in the semifinal

Bhavani Kedia lost 6-0, 6-0 to world No. 3 and eventual champion Sara Twardowska of Poland in the semifinals of the Deaf Open tennis championship at Pinneberg, Germany.

Pro Kabaddi League Season 11 to get underway on Oct. 18

The 11th season of the Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) will start on October 18, the tournament organisers said on Tuesday. The tournament will be held in a three-city caravan format, starting in Hyderabad before moving to Noida on November 10 and Pune on December 3.



Luis Suarez to quit international football

Uruguay icon Luis Suarez announced his retirement from international football on Monday, confirming that he will hang up his boots following Friday's 2026 World Cup Qualifier against Paraguay in Montevideo. Uruguay's top-scorer with 69 goals from 142 appearances helped his nation capture the 2011 Copa America title.

Abhay lifts Tuanku Muhriz Trophy for 10th PSA title

Fourth seed Abhay Singh of India lifted the Tuanku Muhriz Trophy 2024, a PSA Challenger Tour squash event in Kuala Lumpur recently after a thrilling 7-11, 11-8, 12-10, 11-4 victory over top seed Tsz Kwan Lau of Hong Kong in the final. It was Abhay's 10th PSA title. "Winning this title is a testament of my hard work and dedication," said Abhay.

Mysuru monsoon races from tomorrow

A 16-day Mysuru (Monsoon) races will commence on September 5 and conclude on October 27, 2024). K.M. Chandre Gowda, chairman and senior Steward, Mysore Race Club said the advertised stakemoney is ₹6,85,50,000 (including cups/trophies for the season). The Mysore Derby is scheduled for October 27. The Mysore 2000 Guineas will be sponsored by Jayachamaraja Wadiyar Golf Club which is contributing ₹10 lakh. The entrance charge is fixed at ₹200 and on off-course race days it will be ₹100.

Racing dates: Sept. 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27; Oct. 3, 4, 9, 10, 17, 18, 26, 27.

Triumphant: The jubilant Bangladesh team with the trophy. AFP

Historic series sweep for Bangladesh

Visitors hold on to a tense six-wicket win for a 2-0 scoreline over Pakistan; register only their third series victory overseas in 33 attempts

CRICKET

Agence France-Presse
RAWALPINDI

Bangladesh celebrated a historic first-ever Test series win over Pakistan and a 2-0 clean sweep with a tense six-wicket victory here on Tuesday.

Shakib Al Hasan hit the winning boundary 25 minutes before tea on the fifth and final day of the second Test to spark jubilation in the away dressing room.

A handful of Bangladesh supporters were also there to see their country win only a third away series in 33 attempts.

Shakib was unbeaten on 21 and Mushfiqur Rahim was on 22 as the visitors painstakingly overhauled the 185-run target.

Openers Zakir Hasan (40) and Shadman Islam (24), along with skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto (38) and Mominul Haque (34), put runs on the board to propel Bangladesh to a famous win.

Skipper Najmul described the series win as "momentous moment" for a country recently wrecked by protests.

"It means a lot to Bangladesh cricket and to all the players," said the captain. "I cannot express the feelings."

"When we came here everybody was determined to do something special and we wanted to win. I am happy that everyone did his job to the best and we have won a historic series."

Before this, Bangladesh's only away Test series wins came in the West Indies in 2009 and Zimbabwe three years ago.

Pakistan has now lost six of its last 10 home Tests, drawing the other four.

"It is extremely disappointing to lose when you start a busy season," said skipper Shan Masood, whose team faces England in a daunting three-match home series starting next month.

The scores: Pakistan 274 & 172 lost to Bangladesh 262 & 185/4 in 56 overs (Zakir 40, Shanto 38, Mominul 34).
PoM: Litton Das.
PoS: Mehidy.

Ratra replaces Ankola in men's selection committee

Ajay Ratra. PTI

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Ajay Ratra, the former wicketkeeper-batter, has replaced Salil Ankola in the Board of Control for Cricket in India's (BCCI's) men's senior national selection panel. The official announcement came on Tuesday evening, almost three months since Ratra and three others were interviewed for the post by the Cricket Advisory Committee. "His insights will be instrumental to the committee in ensuring that the best talent is identified, nurtured, and given the opportunity to excel" BCCI secretary Jay Shah said in a release.

Ratra's induction restores the convention of the national selection committee comprising a selector from each of the five zones.

Ever since Ajit Agarkar came in as chief selector in July 2023, the west zone had two representatives whereas the north zone had been overlooked. Ankola – who was elevated from Mumbai's chief selector into the national panel in December 2022 – is likely to be inducted into the national junior selection panel.

Prateek completes ton, Chhattisgarh piles it on

Hitting out: Prateek took on the TNCA XI attack during the course of his three-figure knock. G. KARTHIKEYAN

BUCHI BABU

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
DINDIGUL

Left-hander Prateek Yadav brought up his century (109, 132b, 11x4, 5x6) and skipper Amandeep Khare hit 97 (267b, 9x4) as Chhattisgarh got to 450 for nine before play was called off due to rain on day two of the semifinal versus TNCA XI in the Buchi Babu cricket tournament at the NPR College cricket ground in Natham on Tuesday.

Prateek, batting on 61 overnight, scored briskly and reached his century with two sixes off left-arm spinner Ajith Ram.

He charged at the spinner for a long-off six to get to 94 and two balls later, slog-swept over mid-wicket to get to his mark off 113 balls.

When pacer Achyuth challenged him with a short ball, Prateek pulled it to the square leg boundary for a four. He casually charged at pacer Sonu Yadav and lofted an inside-out four to the cover boundary. He eventually missed an attempted inside-out to the cover boundary and was bowled by off-spinner Lakshay Jain.

By the time he departed, Prateek had extended the fourth-wicket stand to 164 runs with his captain Amandeep.

Amandeep flicked Achyuth for a four through mid-wicket and cover-drove Sonu for a similar outcome.

With a century around the corner, he ended up hitting a wide delivery from Lakshay straight to short fine-leg.

The scores (semifinals, day two):

At Dindigul: Chhattisgarh 450/9 in 146.2 overs (Ayush Pandey 82, Anuj Tiwari 93, Amandeep Khare 97, Prateek Yadav 109, Ajith Ram 4/109, Lakshay Jain 4/141) vs. TNCA XI.

At Tirunelveli: Hyderabad 313 vs TNCA President's XI 291/6 in 90 overs (Vimal Khumar 75, K.T.A. Madhava Prasad 40, S. Rithik Easwaran 83 batting, M. Mohammed 41 batting, Tanay Thyagarajan 4/78).

16 teams for Thimmappiah Memorial cricket

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 16 teams will compete in the KSCA Dr. (Capt.) K. Thimmappiah Memorial cricket tournament here. The all-India tournament, with four-day matches, will commence in Bengaluru and Mysuru on Friday.

Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, Mumbai Cricket Association and Dr. DY Patil Cricket Academy are among the sides from outside Karnataka.

KSCA XI, KSCA President's XI, KSCA Secretary's XI and KSCA Colts are the teams from Karnataka. The final will be held in Bengaluru on September 24.

The teams: 'A' Zone: KSCA XI, Goa Cricket Association, Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, Chhattisgarh State.
'B' Zone: KSCA President's XI, Tamil Nadu Cricket Association, Vidarbha Cricket Association, Maharashtra Cricket Association.
'C' Zone: KSCA Secretary's XI, Mumbai Cricket Association, Andhra Cricket Association, Gujarat Cricket Association.
'D' Zone: Odisha Cricket Association, KSCA Colts, Baroda Cricket Association, Dr. DY Patil Cricket Academy.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Assad and Rishith to the fore

M. Assad (117) and Rishith Reddy (5/26) starred for Delhi PS (North) against Gopalan National School in the quarterfinal of the K.M. Ramprasad Shield under-16 inter-school division I cricket tournament here.

The scores: Quarterfinals: Delhi PS (North) 331/9 in 90 overs (Pranav Kedlaya 48, M. Assad 117, Ankush Anuashok 43, P. Rithesh 84 n.o., Rithwik Kumar 3/31) and 17 for no loss in 6 overs drew with Gopalan National School 121 in 60.2 overs (Kumar Sinha 30, A. Vishnu 25, Rishith Reddy 5/26).
Jain Heritage School 261 in 72.5 overs (Aaryansinh Chavda 108, Arnav Anil 29, Kumar Sharma 37 n.o., Arya Gowda 7/105) and 62 for no loss in 22 overs (Benjamin John 30 n.o., Aaryansinh Chavda 32 n.o.) drew with Max Muller HS 154 in 59.2 overs (G. Aravind 61, S. Leshan 6/51).
Bishop Cotton 171 in 82 overs (Deepak Godhi 29, Padam Nahata 45, Jayan Samyog 3/41, Santhosh Rao 3/21) drew with Delhi PS (South) 199/3 in 57.1 overs (Jayan Samyog 100, Rachit Das 45, Santhosh Rao 33).
St. Joseph's BHS 93 in 37.3 overs (Raghavendra Ikkurthi 32, Glenn Mascarenhas 28, H. Nihal 6/18) drew with Holy Saint English School 44 for no loss in 9 overs.

Disha gets the better of Kasturi

Wild card entrant Disha Kumar defeated V.G. Kasturi 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-2 in the girls' round-of-32 of the KSLTA-ITF World Tennis Tour J30 Bengaluru tournament here.

The results (Indians unless mentioned): Round-of-32: Boys: Sehaj Singh bt M. Diganth 6-2, 6-0; Gurbaaz Narang bt Gobina Gobinath 6-0, 7-6(5); Hruthik Katakam bt Yaswanth Gundlapalle 6-2, 6-3; Veer Madam bt Manyu Reddy (USA) 7-6(3), 7-5. **Girls:** Disha Kumar bt V.G. Kasturi 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-2; Mandagalla Princy bt Devanshee Prabhudesai 6-1, 6-2; Snigdha Kanta bt Aahida Singh 6-1, 6-4; Presha Shanthanmoorthi bt Deepshika Vinayagamurthy 7-6(3), 7-5; Mahika Khanna bt Avipsha Dehury 6-4, 5-7, 6-3.

LIVE TELECAST

Paralympics: DD Sports & JioCinema, 12.30 p.m. onwards
Scotland vs Australia: 1st T20I, FanCode, 6.30 p.m.
US Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8.30 p.m. & 4.30 a.m. (Thursday)

Cricket has much on its plate, including a new disruptor

BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Jay Shah, 35, is a year younger than India captain Rohit Sharma. We know little of his cricket skills or acumen. We do know a bit about his cricket knowledge, though. In a recent interview he said, "In Australia and England, every international player does not play domestic cricket."

If they are not reacting in Australia and England, it is because Shah is getting ready to take over as Independent Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC), and it won't do to upset the most powerful man in the game. Actually, he is already the most powerful, as secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), and son of India's Home Minister. As caretaker, in a sense, of the game's treasure chest, he might be the most powerful ever – no W.G. Grace, Don Bradman or Sachin Tendulkar can match his combination of political, filial and financial heft. Shah will be anointed on December 1 before which he has to quit as the BCCI secretary. Rohan Jaitley, another from the BJP stable of sports administrators and son of a former Minister is likely to succeed him.

Of course it is an honour for India etc., as anyone, especially players who wish to remain on the right side of authority, will tell you. Even inevitable, you might say. I mean, look at the Nadellas and Pichais and Ajay Bangas. Cricket is a billion-dollar business too, and how appropriate that it should now officially be run by the ICC in India rather than India in the ICC.

Shah's comment came a few months after stating that top Indian players would be available for the domestic tournament. Then he changed his mind, saying, "We should not insist on players like Rohit and Virat playing in the Duleep Trophy. They will risk injury...We have to treat the players with respect."

One-man authority

The suggestion that those who play the Duleep Trophy beginning this week are not being treated with respect may be a mischievous interpretation. But will the one-man deciding authority in the BCCI (despite its various committees) see himself as the one-man deciding authority in the ICC too? Will the chairman's voice tolerate other voices? Will he see the ICC as an extension not just of the BCCI but of the government of India, like the BCCI itself currently is?

Cricket has much on its plate. With the domestic T20 and T10 franchises getting more powerful, private ownership might decide its future direction. In 2028, cricket re-enters the Olympics. Disney Star, who hold the rights for ICC's global events, are apparently seeking a reduction in the $3 billion deal.

Then there is the Pakistan question. There is no sign of a thaw in relationship to suggest bilateral series with India. The ICC's interests, at least theoretically, are ruled by cricket and not by politics. What is good for India might not be good for world cricket, and vice versa. Other Indian chairmen have used the power of Indian cricket to cut through the occasional feeble objection. N. Srinivasan is a good example. Money talks in cricket with an Indian accent.

The argument that England and Australia bullied their way through when they ran world cricket and now it's India's turn merely acknowledges that whoever is in charge can ride roughshod over the rest. Still, the optimists will be hoping for more discussion-based decision-making, and greater attention to the smaller countries, even if international cricket seems to be heading towards a two-tier system with six teams in each tier. But that's a discussion for another day.

Meanwhile, there is the Duleep Trophy this week. Teams known as Team A, Team B and so on sound ridiculous, and show the extent of the cricket board's imagination.

Hopefully the new ICC will not rename the teams in international cricket in similar fashion. Somehow Virat Kohli scoring a Test century for Team A doesn't have quite the zing.

Jay Shah is unlikely to do that. Still, at 35, he can use his limited background in cricket to advantage. Disruptors can sometimes have a positive effect. But the key word in his job title – independent chairman – is the first one.

Hopefully it's time to make amends: Cummins

Press Trust of India
MELBOURNE

Australian captain Pat Cummins is looking at the upcoming five-match rubber against India as a chance to "make amends" for the successive Test series defeats at home against its rival. He said the next Border-Gavaskar Trophy, which will start on November 22 in Perth, promises to be a 50-50 affair.

"The last two series here in Australia, we haven't been successful, so it's been a long time. Hopefully, it's time to make amends," Cummins told *Star Sports*.

"You know, we've played them (India) plenty of times where they've beaten us, but we've also had plenty of wins against them as well, which we'll draw confidence from. The most recent Test match was, of course, the World Test Championship in neutral conditions, and we came out on top in that match. It's always fiercely competitive, and it always feels like it's 50-50. I'm 10 out of 10 excited for the Border-Gavaskar Trophy."

Steve Smith agreed with the skipper and said it will a "big summer" for Australia.

Cummins feels Rohit's men will give the hosts a run for their money. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK